FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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LD281329 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Military Action — Iraqi air defense units shot down a Syrian MIG-21 plane near Al-Qa'im 28 July, according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The statement added that the pilot survived the crash. Regarding fighting around Meymak, an Iranian communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian air strikes 28 July caused "heavy losses" to Iraqi concentrations. The agency had previously noted that Iranian offensives in the area caused some 5,000 enemy casualties "over the past few days." Iranian troops repelled Iraqi attempts to capture positions west of Mehran, IRNA also reported.

Iranian Policy on Gulf — In remarks cited by Tehran radio, Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i reaffirmed that Iran will only "defend and retaliate" against attacks in the Gulf. However, in reference to the superpowers' presence in that region, he declared, "We will not limit ourselves; we will do whatever is necessary or appropriate to each event." Khamene'i warned that Iran has such "numerous and diverse" defense capabilities that its enemies cannot possibly predict what action it will take. On the subject of Iraq's allies, Khamene'i stressed that the Kuwaiti Government has most clearly given "full support" to Iraq's "wicked acts." The president threatened that, in view of Iran's policy of retaliation, Kuwait could be the "target" of an "invasion." Tehran's English service to Europe reported that Khamene'i declared that "economic powers" in Kuwait "will be brought under missile attacks" if that country continues its "shenanigans." The Iranian president's remarks came after a session of the Supreme War Support Council at which officials discussed stepping up recruitment and training activities, increasing grant-in-aid and loan assistance to military dependents, and compensating for damages to civilian vehicles lent to the war effort.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati disparaged France's decision to place the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* on alert as merely a "political propaganda move" to gain domestic popularity, in remarks reported by Tehran radio 28 July. On the subject of the U.S. presence in the Gulf, Velayati, who is in Geneva for UN conferences, asserted that with the *Stark* incident and the recent mine damage to a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker, the world now realizes that the "political defeat" of the United States in the Gulf area has begun. He cautioned the United States against linking the "destiny" of the Gulf region with that of the Iraqi regime.

Khomeyni Meets Military Officials — In remarks broadcast on Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called on officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps to preserve their "unity and strength" and not to "overestimate" themselves but to remember that they are instruments of God's will. The Corps will "shortly" carry out "Martyrdom" naval maneuvers in the Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz, the radio announced, noting that the exercises are designed to demonstrate the units' defensive capability and enhance combat readiness.

Iran

Interests Office — Pakistan has agreed to take care of Iran's interests in France, Tehran radio announced.

Tehran Flood — According to an announcement from a special disaster headquarters, some 141 people were killed and 346 injured in "major flooding" which caused "serious" property damage in northern Tehran, IRNA reported.

Israel and the USSR

A commentary broadcast by Moscow's Radio Peace and Progress responded to remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Israel's lack of hostile intenions toward the USSR by recalling "absolutely anti-Soviet statements" by "members of the institutionalized Right." The station noted that while the Soviet Union does not believe that Israel can mount a "genuine threat" to its security, the Jericho-2 could be a "danger" because its use might be decided by "Pentagon staff." "Political sources" cited by *'Al Hamishmar* 28 July noted that the "Soviet warnings should not be taken too seriously."

On the subject of an international peace conference on the Middle East, *Hadashot* reported 28 July that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has received a secret message indicating that the USSR is ready to agree to exclude the PLO from direct participation in the negotiations. The message also indicates the USSR will accept the concept that the conference will have no power to "force" its position on participants, the paper says.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a Syrian Ba'th Party delegation, JANA reported. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with a delegation of Algerian parliamentarians who are in Tripoli for talks on promoting bilateral and pan-Arab unity.

Pakistan

The Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" with the Afghan charge d'affaires regarding the shelling of separate localities in Bajaur Agency on 16 and 21 July, Karachi radio reported, noting that six people were killed and five wounded.

'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting 'More Than Reconciliation'

NC271207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27 Jul (MENA) — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at 1145 Cairo time today.

Yasir 'Arafat described his hour-long meeting with President Mubarak as "fraternal, warm, and constructive."

Sources of the Egyptian delegation said Mubarak and 'Arafat reviewed all aspects of the Middle East situation. They added that the dialogue between them will resume during the OAU summit.

Palestinian sources affirmed that President Mubarak and Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will meet again. The same sources described today's meeting as "more than a reconciliation."

Attending the meeting on the Egyptian side were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Mustafa al-Faqiy, director of the Presidential Office for Information Affairs; and Egyptian Ambassador in Addis Ababa Ahmad al-Zand.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Secretary Jamal al-Surani; Sulayman al-Harisi, 'Arafat's adviser on African affairs; and Bassam Abu Sharif.

PLO's Al-Surani on Meeting

NC272029 Cairo MENA in English 2018 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, July 27 (MENA) — Arab problems will, according to a Palestinian official, only be solved through Egypt's return to its Arab nation's natural and pioneering role.

Jamal al-Surani, member of the Palestinian delegation attending the OAU summit, said Egypt's absence threw the Arab rank into disarray.

Al-Surani, who attended today's meeting of Egypt President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said the last months proved that the absence of Egypt was not only detrimental to Egypt and Palestine, but also to the sum total of Arab-African struggle and the Non-alignment Movement.

The Palestinian official, while describing as natural President Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat, said it was a positive and constructive meeting, which is considered a continuation of the drive made in the field of the Palestinian issue and Arab solidarity.

PLO 'Secretly' Negotiating Purchase of Submarines

JN271546 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Tunis — *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* has learned that the PLO is secretly negotiating with the PRC and other East bloc countries to purchase small submarines for the Palestinian navy. These are to be used in attacks against important Israeli naval and economic targets. At this point the PLO leadership is exploring the possibility of starting a fleet of small naval vessels which can operate successfully from nearby naval bases. The PLO leadership is also exploring the possibility of using these vessels as naval torpedos in suicide missions.

Goukouni Oueddei on Demands for Peace Talks

LD271500 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] On the sidelines of the OAU summit, GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei held a news conference in Paris this morning on the break in negotiations with Ndjamena on national reconciliation. He was keen to recall the three points that form a precondition and quote — a minimum term for any negotiation. These are: the abolition of the Fundamental Act (some sort of Chadian constitution); the question of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, UNIR — the only party; and the reform of the Chadian Armed Forces. None of these three points has yet received the approval of Ndjamena. Chadian Minister of Interior Mahamat Itno stated only this weekend that the conditions set by Goukouni Oueddei are unacceptable. As for the former GUNT president, he believes that these demands are instrumental in broadening the debate and political leadership in Chad. Here are more explanations of Goukouni Oueddei's three points, with Goukouni's interview by (Hassan Diop):

[Begin Oueddei recording] We want to change these documents to create a [word indistinct] assembly instead of the Chadian National Council, and then give it specific powers. As for UNIR, it is still in the same context as we know it; (?he) founded UNIR, since there were many external and internal pressures that led to UNIR's foundation. [sentence as heard] Today, we sincerely desire to neotiate with Ndjamena and bury the hatchet. If we return to Chad, we want to be useful and not be strangers in our own land. With this in mind, we want UNIR to be dissolved to found a broad movement that would rally the Chadian forces as a whole.

As for the Chadian Army, there are realities that we cannot ignore. Without force, our own force, Hissein could never have won in the north of the country. Our stand, which we have made known since October 1986, enabled Hissein to win. And we cannot ignore or totally forget that this army took part in Hissein's victory. That is why we want the army to be clearly reorganized so that it serves the nation and not only a particular group. [end recording]

Armed Solution Not Ruled Out

AB271518 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Paris, 27 Jul (AFP) — Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the original GUNT, who is "pessimistic" about the chances of a reconciliation with Ndjamena, announced here today that the Chadian opposition would hold a meeting in Burkina Faso in the "upcoming weeks" and added that he did not rule out that he could again take over the movement's leadership.

Mr Goukouni, who was speaking at a news conference of several journalists, rejected any idea of "rallying" to President Hissein Habre's government. He instead preferred the idea of a "reconciliation." Currently in Paris, Mr Goukouni stated that, should Ndjamena continue to reject a definitive peace, he would be compelled to consider other methods of action. He did not rule out recourse to a military solution.

"We are going to see how things develop in the next 6 months. It will be difficult for us to make further concessions," he stated, shifting responsibility for the current deadlock in reconciliation talks between both parties onto Ndjamenda. Mr Goukouni recalled that he had wanted a "thorough" review of the Fundamental Act (which serves as the constitution), the transformation of the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR, sole party) into a "great unifying movement," and finally, the reorganization of the Armed Forces "to put them at the nation's service instead of serving a group of persons." These conditions were last week rejected as "unacceptable" by Mahamat Itno, the Chadian minister of interior and territorial administration, who felt that they had caused the stalemate in negotiations between both sides.

Mr Goukouni added that in "upcoming weeks," a meeting will "certainly" be held in Burkina Faso between Chadians "that oppose Ndjamena in order to settle internal disagreements." He specified that Neo-GUNT President Acheikh ibn Oumar would attend the meeting.

In another development, Mr Goukouni recalled last October's incident in Tripoli when he was "seriously wounded in the abdomen" and remained in a hospital for 2 months. "The persons responsible for this were members of the military police and the Libyan intelligence service," he affirmed. He also stated: "I do not believe that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Major Abd al-Salam Jallud were informed." Mr Goukouni explained that Col al-Qadhdhafi subsequently sent a senior officer to convey his apologies before visiting personally. He said he maintained "good relations" with Libya and could some day contribute to a rapprochement between Chad and Libya. He thought that "Ndjamena should understand what we are doing."

Goukouni Oueddei, who stated that he met with no French officials while in Paris during his short stay, leaves this afternoon for Iraq. "Since 1980, we have maintained political and religious relations with this nation. Thanks to these ties, we were able to open an embassy in Baghdad in 1981. This will be my first contact with the Iraqi authorities in 5 years."

Envoy to Paris Reacts to Goukouni Statement

AB272236 Paris AFP in French 1431 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Paris, 27 Jul (AFP) — The Chadian Government remains committed to national reconciliation, Chad's Ambassador to Paris Allam-Mi told AFP today.

Reacting to the statement by former GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei that Ndjamena was attempting to force GUNT to join Ndjamena in place of a reconciliaiton, Mr Allam Mi stated that a "rallying means returning without conditions or discussions. However, this is not the case."

"Talks between Goukouni and Ndjamena in the past few months, especially in Algiers, have been numerous and have led to several of Goukouni's demands being taken into consideration. One therefore cannot speak of rallying; this is clearly an issue of reconciliation," he added.

Recalling the announcement by Goukouni today on the Chadian opposition's eventual meeting in Burkina Faso, for the purpose of bringing it together, and the possible recourse to a military solution should negotiations with Ndjamena fail, Mr Allam-Mi described them as "diabolical intentions to resume the hostilities." According to him, these are the indisputable signs of nostalgia that characterize Goukouni and his previous love affairs with Al-Qadhdhafi." [quotation marks as received] "This," he affirmed, "does not surprise us and does not frighten us. The most important process is taking place in the field, where the Chadian Government is well understood and where the integration of former Goukouni supporters into public life is almost completed."

JANA: Habre Confirms Reconciliation Not Realized
LD261606 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Libreville, July 26 *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Puppet Habre confirmed that reconciliation amongst Chadian factions was not realised.

Observers said this confirmation made by agent Habre yesterday in Gabon is contradictory to past declaration he made and spread by French and Western news media on national reconciliation in Chad.

The observers pointed out that this confirms what came in the statement made last Thursday [23 July] by Goukouni Oueddei declaring that national reconciliation in Chad was hindered and prevented by puppet Habre and his clique.

Goukouni urged the Chadian people and the militants of the government of national unity to close the road before the agents of France and America who are threatening the peace of Chad.

This statement threw the puppet clique of Ndjamena into total confusion. Also those standing behind the clique suffered the same fate. As the contradictory statements by the clique did not pass the notice of observers, for representatives of Habre asserted in Paris on Friday that the contacts of reconciliation were indeed considered as nil. [sentence as received] But the puppet clique retreated and claimed in a statement by a Ibrahim Itno in Addis Ababa yesterday that the contacts of reconciliation were not cancelled but delayed.

JANA: Goukouni on Libyan Ties
LD271929 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Paris, July 27, (JANA) — "Goukouni Oueddei" reaffirmed that the national reconciliation in Chad has not been achieved and refuted all claims from agent Habre about the return of all his opponents to Ndjamena.

Goukouni also asserted that the agent clique in Ndjamena has disrupted and blocked the possibility of a national reconciliation in Chad.

That came in a press conference Goukouni Oueddei has held in Paris at noon today.

Goukouni praised the historical strong relations that link the Libyan Arab people with the Chadian people. He said that his relations with Great Jamahiriyah are strong and close.

He announced that a conference of all Chadian factions within the national unity government will be held shortly in "Ouagadougou" the capital of Burkina Jamahiriyah.

Addressing journalists, Goukouni confirmed that he had not offered agent Habre any concessions and that he might opt fob the military option to confront the situation which resulted from the stance of the Ndjamena clique.

Observers in the French capital linked this warning to Goukouni Oueddei's call in a statement he issued last Thursday [23 July] to the Chadian people and the freedom fighters of the government of national unity to mobilise to block the way against the agents of France and the U.S. who are threatening the peace in Chad.

Tax on Petroleum Products Imposed at IMF's Request
AB241208 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of President Habre to discuss two issues submitted by the minister of finance and computerization. The first issue concerned instituting a tax on petroleum products while the second concerned the capital budget. Adopting measures on these two points was recommended by the IMF during recent negotiations with the government. Here is the a report on the council's meeting by the secretary of state at the Republic's presidency in charge of information and orientation, who also serves as governmental spokesman:

[Begin recording] The meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 23 July under the chairmanship of President Hissein Habre, the council's chairman, examined two issues submitted by the minister of finance and computerization. The ministers first examined the draft bill instituting a single tax rate on petroleum products, due to recent negotiations between the government and the IMF. This tax is designed to accelerate collecting taxes on petroleum products. [passage indistinct]

After thorough discussion, the council adopted the draft bills to be presented to the National Consultative Council. Later, after examining all the points on its agenda, the council closed its session at 1300. [end recording]

Government Seeks Release of Captain Held in ROK

NC272110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA) — Egypt has asked South Korea to speed up the release of Egyptian Captain Muhammad Samir al-'Unaybi, who was detained in Korea after his ship, *Al-Mandarah*, sank.

Ambassador Muhammad 'Ismat Rida, director of the Consular Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, made the request to Sin Ki-nok, the Korean consul general in Cairo.

The Egyptian ambassador said that governments, not individuals, should handle the issue of the captain's detention and that the compensation being demanded by fishermen is subject to insurance company investigations and reports.

Complying with instructions from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the director of the Consular Department asked that this requst be conveyed to the Korean Government. He expressed hope that the detained captain would be released soon.

Ministry Denies Report on Clandestine Group

NC271516 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA) — A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has described as completely baseless a report published by the opposition newspaper *Al-Ahrar* today about the existence of a clandestine organization within the Police Corps. The source said this report is a link in the chain of tendentious allegations and constant imflammatory attempts by the newspaper, which according to the source has been persistently publishing similar lies involving various areas of national action.

The source also denied a report published by the same newspaper about a theft of documents from a residence owned by a major general in the Police Corps. The source dismissed the report as slanderous. The source added: This newspaper's attempts to link this alleged organization with central security forces' incidents in February 1986 are refuted by the attorney general's comprehensive report on these incidents.

The source added that the report, which says that Interior Minister Zaki Badr visited Police Corps offices in various governorates over the past few weeks to locate the alleged organization's members, is an extremely naive claim worthy of ridicule and mockery. This claim, however, fulfills the newspaper's policy of seeking cheap gains at the expense of truth, without regard for the homeland's higher interests.

MENA: Al-Qadhdhafi Arrests, Drafts African Workers

NC242028 Cairo MENA in English 1945 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 24 (MENA) — "Libya Turning Into a Big Prison" is the banner which a Cairo newspaper is splashing across its front page.

Another banner that "Al-Qadhdhafi Arrests Every Suspect," and that "Amnesty International Orders Him (Al-Qadhdhafi) To Stop Physical Liquidation," is also spread above a main front-page news story in tomorrow's *Akhbar al-Yawm*, a Cairo weekly Arabic-language newspaper.

The story, which is quoting news agency reports, is adding further details that:

— 599 persons have been arrested in Banghazi alone.

— Al-Qadhdhafi's agencies arrested various African nationals working in Libya, enforcing Libyan Armed Forces' enrollment on them.

The arrested Africans included 800 persons from Nigeria, 300 persons from Mali, 500 persons from Niger and 800 persons from Sudan.

— Libyan young men are dodging the draft.

Foreign Liaison Official Receives Soviet Official

LD281231 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1214 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 28 July (JANA) — A member of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning received the deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East and North Africa Department.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, the two sides discussed various international issues of mutual interest.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Delegation

LD272110 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 27 [July] Nasir, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution received Dawud al-Baz the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Syrian National Social Party, Marwan Faris the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council and In'am Ra'd the member of the council.

Algerian FLN Party Members Continue Visit

Meet With Congress Officials

LD272230 Tripoli JANA in English 1651 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, July 27, (JANA) — This morning at the People's Palace in Tripoli the unity meetings began between the General People's Congress and the Algerian National People's Assembly which come within the framework of the unity steps and meetings agreed upon in previous meetings.

These unity meeting are discussing the issues relating to the unity steps and to set the dates for meetings between various people's organisations in both sisterly countries within the context of enriching this important historic event that embodies the Arab people's aspirations in both Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria to accomplish Arab unity as it is the decisive response in confronting imperialism and its agents.

The meeting was attended by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary of people's congresses' affairs, a number of secretaries and assistant secretaries of people's congresses in a number of municipalities in Great Jamahiriyah and from the Algerian side it was attended by Djelloul Melaika the member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front and the deputy speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, a number of committees' chairmans and members of the assembly.

Tour Al-Qadhdhafi Home

LD272222 Tripoli JANA in English 1646 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, July 27 (JANA) — The delegation of the National Assembly of sisterly Algeria has visited the house of the leader of the revolution witnessing the effects of the barbarous and abortive U.S.-NATO aggression targetting the house of the leader of the revolution.

In its comments in the visitors' note-book, the above delegation has denounced this aggression directed against innocent peaceable people stressing the great savagery and falsity of those who uphold the banners of freedom. Such an aggression is but a valid proof displaying the deep-rooted prejudice of the forces of evil against free people worldwide.

The Algerian delegation adds that they take this opportunity to reiterate its support to their brotherly people of Great Jamahiriyah in its continuing struggle against the enemies.

Hold Talks With Jallud

LD272238 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 27 July (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud at noon today received Brother Djelloul Melaika, member of the FLN Central Committee and vice deputy of the Algerian National People's Assembly, and his delegation. The visitors participated in unionist meetings held between the General People's Congress and the Algerian National People's Assembly. Those attending were the brother assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the brother secretary of the affairs of the people's congresses, and a number of secretaries and assistant secretaries of basic people's congresses. Also in attendance were a number of secretaries and assistant secretaries of basic people's congressess in a number of the Great Jamahiriyah's municipalities.

Fa'iq, NPUG Official Depart Tripoli 17 Jul

NC271849 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Muhammad Fa'iq, Egyptian minister of information during 'Abd al-Nasir's presidency, and Ahmad Khalafallah, chairman of the National Council for Arab Culture and assistant secretary general of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], departed Tripoli this evening. They had participated in a national seminar organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the 23 July Revolution.

Agreement Signed With DPRK Delegation 26 Jul

LD261251 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jul (JANA) — The signing of the minutes of the agreement pertaining to the fourth session of the Libyan Arab-DPRK joint committee took place this morning in Tripoli.

The minutes were signed for Libya by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport, and for the DPRK side by the minister of external economic affairs, Chong Song-nam.

The minutes of the agreement provide for bolstering relations between the two countries in the economic, trade, construction, and marine transport fields, as well as for cooperation in the technical and banking fields.

Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

LD261912 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 26 Jul (JANA) — Chong Song-nam, DPRK minister of external economic affairs, and his accompanying delegation departed Tripoli this afternoon at the conclusion of their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent prior to his departure from Tripoli International Airport, Mr Chong hailed friendly and cooperative relations between the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Constituent Assembly Official Denies Coup
JN271740 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1714 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA) — Constituent Assembly leader [as received] Professor Salah 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali Taha has denied that a coup took place in Sudan. However, he admitted that many conspiracies are being concocted behind the scenes. He stated that the responsible authorities are watching the situation closely. Taha also noted that the authorities may resort to some constitutional provisions to safeguard the domestic front, confront the enemies of democracy, and contain these conspiracies.

The Constituent Assembly leader commented that Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, speaker of the Constituent Assembly, had not submitted his resignation. This is because the law stipulates that the speaker of the Constituent Assembly must submit his resignation to the Constituent Assembly deputy speaker and not to the prime minister.

Al-Mahdi Returns, Backs State of Emergency
JN271513 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has returned home following a 2-week absence from the nation. The prime minister had paid an official visit to the SFRY and a private visit to the United Kingdom.

Commenting on the declaration of the state of emergency, Al-Mahdi declared that the Council of Ministers possesses the right to take measures necessary for safeguarding the nation's security and stability.

Al-Mahdi said the Council of Ministers knows best about events in the nation. He explained that he will hold a news conference in the next few days to inform the public on the state of affairs. Al-Mahdi also denied that he met with representatives of the John Garang movement during his stay in the British capital.

However, Al-Mahdi did note that, while there, he had met with other people, whom he declined to name. Al-Mahdi stated that he met with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party. He commented that this meeting took place within the framework of consultations between the two parties. He declined to comment on the choice of a new State Council member and stated that he will discuss this issue at his news conference.

Foreign Minister Denies Meeting SPLM Officials
JN271907 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (SUNA) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad has denied that he has met with officials of the SPLM — John Garang's movement — during his present stay in Addis Ababa. Ahmad is leading the Sudanese delegation to the OAU summit.

Ahmad said he is prepared to meet with John Garang on the basis that "we are all Sudanese brothers."

Ahmad noted that unofficial talks were held in London with SPLM leaders, but on a personal basis.

In a press statement today following his return from London, where he had traveled on a private visit, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied that he had met with SPLM representatives while in London, but instead had met with other persons. As for relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, Ahmad explained Sudan's viewpoint and its initiatives. Ahmad affirmed Sudan's willingness to discuss and define the problems. He emphasized that he personally opposes trading accusations, because this does not solve anything. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmad expressed the belief that the past must be forgotten and a new leaf turned over in relations between the two countries.

Council Chairman Al-Mirghani Warns 'Corrupters'
JN281517 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jul (SUNA) — Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, has warned those who play with fire and foment sedition that the arm of the law will not allow them to go unpunished. He added that the law will take all wrongdoers and corrupters to account.

In a statement issued today, Al-Mirghani noted that the homeland's safety and the citizens' security are the primary considerations, adding that the people have chosen democracy to fulfill this objective. Al-Mirghani stressed that the State Council will exercise its constitutional prerogatives to protect the homeland and the people.

He also stated that the State Council will respect the citizens' constitutional and legal rights and will abide by the principles of the glorious April upheaval.

Council of Ministers Holds Closed Session 28 Jul
JN281531 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jul (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers held a closed session this morning that lasted until 1400. Some ministers declined to comment on it, but Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, commented that the Council of Ministers discussed affairs of interest to the citizens and to the homeland's security.

Islamic Front Official Scores Government on Act
EA271633 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] Dr Hassan Abdallah Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front, has issued a statement saying that declaring a national state of emergency is not (?in conformity) with the detailed regulations, principles, and legal practice that the nation's current laws are based upon. It instead is based on political considerations that stem from political opportunism rather than emergency regulations. He added that the matter must be submitted to the Constituent Assembly, which will determine the date on which it becomes effective.

He declared that the actual reasons for the state of emergency are the government's [word indistinct], which he described as political (?pressure) resulting from its complete inability to administer the nation, maintain security, and rectify the crisis besetting everyday life. He added that he cannot see any justification for the state of emergency except the inability of government organs to implement laws [words indistinct].

Radio SPLA Calls for Malakal Citizens To Evacuate

EA272036 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Major Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander for northern Upper Nile, has appealed to the citizens still residing inside Malakal town to pull out to avoid being caught up in cross-fire. The text of the appeal reads as follows:

Dear citizens of Malakal town: Revolutionary greetings to all of you from me and on behalf of the SPLA forces in northern Upper Nile. Our country is undergoing a critical stage in its history. The reactionary government in Khartoum, having reneged from all its obligations, has chosen to escalate the war in its mistaken belief that this will improve its tottering image. In fulfilment to our sacred mission of liberating the Sudanese people from the yoke of oppression, neglect, and clique rule, the SPLA is left with no choice but to pay back Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in his own coin.

On 11, 12, and 13 July 1987 your gallant forces in and around Malakal have been dealing deadly blows to the Khartoum army at Nagdiar. As expected, the government has been shamelessly lying to you about these engagements. It is our duty to inform you that the enemy suffered a crushing defeat and their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Al-Sadiq Taha 'Ali, was killed. I am sure you have not been told these facts.

But this is not what I want to talk to you about today. My immediate concern today is about your safety in Malakal. I am obliged by my responsibility to inform you that it is no longer safe for you citizens to stay in that town. We do not want innocent citizens to be caught up in cross-fire, thus endangering their lives. I advise you all to evacuate the town and move to the countryside, where you will live in peace. You must make up your minds fairly soon.

To your brothers in Khartoum's army, police, prisons, and wildlife [service], I say that we are all the sons and daughters of the oppressed masses and should not therefore be fighting against each other. Do not allow yourselves to be deceived by the sectarian government in Khartoum that you are dying for a noble cause. As a soldier, you care for your honor. I am therefore appealing to you to think very seriously about the situation the Khartoum clique has put you into.

It pains us a lot to see those mass graves of fellow countrymen. For this reason and in line with the policy of the movement, all our units are under orders to welcome you unconditionally into our ranks, and should some of you choose otherwise we are ready to discuss with them how best to stop bloodshed and bring about peace in our country.

We are the people most affected by war and are therefore the most interested in peace. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi does not care about your lives as much as he cares about taking out from the government chest 20 million pounds and depositing it into his personal account in London. Such selfish and dishonest people are irrelevant to our peace process.

I end by reassuring you that our commitment to build a new Sudan is irrevokable. A new Sudan of freedom, equality, and justice. Long live the SPLM-SPLA! Long live the unity of the Sudanese people! Victory is certain! Thank you, very much.

[Signed] Dr Maj Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander for northern Upper Nile.

KUWAIT

Defense Minister Receives GCC Military Official

LD271811 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jul (KUNA) — Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah received at his office this morning Major General Yusuf al-Madani, chairman of the military committee of the GCC General Secretariat. Maj Gen al-Madani conveyed to the Kuwaiti defense minister a message from his brother Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. The message concerned the current situation in the region and the latest political, military, and international developments. The two also discussed bilateral fraternal relations between the two countries in the military sphere.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah commissioned Maj Gen al-Madani to convey Kuwait's gratitude for the participation of Saudi minesweepers in clearing the water passage together with their brothers in the Kuwaiti Navy.

Maj Gen al-Madani is on a visit to Kuwait lasting several days, during which he will meet with a number of military officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Official Source' on Role of Saudi Minesweepers

LD272320 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2355 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Jul (SPA) — Today, some news agencies relayed stories saying that Saudi minesweepers are participating in clearing some water passages. Following this, an official source told SPA that Saudi Arabia would like to stress anew what it announced yesterday, which is that the mission of Saudi minesweepers is restricted to known territorial waters.

Commentary on Improving USSR-Israel Relations

LD250254 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jul 87

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] Observers expect that the rapprochement that has lately taken place between the Soviet Union and the Israeli enemy will lead to the re-establishment of their diplomatic relations, despite aspects of extreme caution on behalf of the Soviets.

The arrival of a Soviet consular delegation in occupied Palestine last week represented the consecration of the political flirtations which were begun secretly between Tel Aviv and Moscow over the last 2 years, and appeared to confirm to the world the end of 20 years of political rupture between the two sides. But the Soviets are moving very cautiously toward Tel Aviv because of Moscow's relations with some Arab states, which the Soviets do not want to affect by the recovery of their diplomatic relations with the Israeli enemy.

However, self-interest and nothing else governs states' bilateral relations. On this basis, it is everybody's right to pursue his own self-interest according to what he believes. But the way of achieving this interest is characterized nowadays by treachery, not hesitating to harm others to achieve one's aims.

According to these criteria, Moscow and Tel Aviv are trying to play the game of deception. But Tel Aviv is resorting to using the force of others who support it and are able to put economic pressure on the Soviets by meeting their needs for cereals and technical equipment, which the Soviets are unable to produce.

Besides, the game of interests between the superpowers and within the framework of [words indistinct] policy of mutual concessions in order to reach [words indistinct] whereby these forces have entered disputes and conflicts in the international arena, among which is the game of concessions. Due to the nature of Israel's relations with the superpowers, there was a more extended scope in this game (?in favor) of the Israelis, at the expense of the Arab states altogether.

The Soviets did not retract from their former intransigence by coincidence. Resuming their relations with Israel, allowing a limited emigration of Soviet Jews, and reopening some Hebrew knessets are all signs pointing out that Moscow has become more ready than ever to build relations with Israel. The Soviet consular's 8-month stay in Tel Aviv supports these relations, despite Moscow's attempt to minimize the importance of this initiative and the claim that the consular delegation [word indistinct] to renew the passports of the Soviet citizens who are living in Israel.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for Turkey 27 Jul

JN270828 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0645 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jul (WAM) — His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, the deputy prime minister, left the country for Ankara this morning on a 3-day official visit to Turkey at the invitation of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. During the visit, his highness will hold talks with Turkish officials on promoting relations between the two countries, as well as on developments in the Middle East and the Gulf area.

Aircraft Crossing Border From Syria Downed 28 Jul

JN280834 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0823 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Statement by Iraqi military spokesman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1039 [0639 GMT] today, an unidentified aircraft penetrated the international border between Iraq and Syria. The aircraft approached our nation from Syrian territory. Initial information from the second air defense sector indicates that our air defenses downed the plane. The appropriate persons in this sector are now investigating the incident for further details, including the aircraft's identity. We will furnish you with any new information we obtain.

[Dated] 28 July 1987

Identified as Syrian MIG-21

JN281017 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0958 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Statement by Iraqi military spokesman]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following our statement this morning on the penetration of our international border with Syria by an unidentified aircraft, it has been confirmed to us that the aircraft is a Syrian MIG-21, that it was downed inside our territory in an area 6 km northwest of the Al-Qa'im complex in ('Akashat), and that the pilot is alive.

[Dated] 28 July 1987

Government Proposals on UN Resolution Specified

JN271443 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1247 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jul (WAM) — The *Al-Ittihad* newspaper has reported that the proposals presented by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to the UN secretary general on implementing the Security Council resolution calling for a halt to the Gulf war stipulate the need for complete withdrawal to international borders within 10 days of a comprehensive cease-fire.

Informed sources in New York told the newspaper that the proposals call for the exchange of POW's and their return home no longer than 8 weeks after the cease-fire. The proposals also stipulate that the UN secretary general call for convening a regional conference of the littoral Arab Gulf states' foreign ministers under his auspices. This conference would discuss the ways and means to guarantee security and freedom of international navigation. The proposals state that the call for such a conference should follow a peace being established between Iraq and Iran.

According to these sources, Iraq has asked for permission to use its ports and coasts immediately after a cease-fire. It also wishes to be able to benefit from navigation in the Gulf's international waters on an equal basis with Iran. It affirmed readiness to cooperate in good faith with the secretary general's mediation efforts.

In their statement to the newspaper, the sources pointed out that in response to paragraph six of the Security Council resolution, Iraq has affirmed its readiness to consult with Perez de Cuellar in investigating responsibility for the dispute and its continuation. They have agreed to do so provided that a short time is allotted for submitting a report to the Security Council on implementing the resolution. This is intended to prevent either side from delaying or procrastinating. The sources noted that Tariq 'Aziz will inform U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz of his government's acceptance of the Security Council resolution as an indivisible package when he meets with him today.

Meanwhile, U.S. Department of State sources said that Shultz will express his nation's hope that the status quo in the Gulf on ceasing attacks against ships will continue. These sources pointed out that neither Iraq nor Iran has attacked vessels in the Gulf since 15 July. They noted that U.S. circles believe that maintaining this condition will help the secretary general to continue with his efforts to contact Iran and to get it to specify its official stand toward the resolution.

'Aziz Meets With Vernon Walters in New York 24 Jul

JN251049 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] New York, July 25, INA — Iraqi [word indistinct] and foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Vernon Walters, met here last night to discuss the Security Council resolution calling for an end of the Iraq-Iran war.

The meeting followed Iraq's acceptance of the resolution presented by Mr. 'Aziz to Mr. Perez de Cuellar on Thursday [23 July].

Mr. 'Aziz will meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington on Monday.

Meets Shultz in Washington

JN280752 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT Jul 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington. During the meeting, which was held at the request of Shultz, the two sides discussed ways to implement the recent UN Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war. This resolution concerns a comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal of both countries' forces to international borders, and a comprehensive exchange of POW's. The talks also dealt with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to implement all the clauses of the resolution.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq accepts implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for a comprehensive cease-fire, the withdrawal of both nations' forces to recognized international borders, a comprehensive exchange of

POW's, and putting an end to the dispute between the two countries through negotiations.

Assembly Urges IPU Discussion of UN Resolution

JN251530 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA — The Iraqi National Assembly has demanded that the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war should be listed as an article in the agenda of the forthcoming Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The request was made in a message addressed by Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi to Mr. Cornellou, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In his message, Dr. Hammadi recalled the keenness shown by the union in its previous meeting on the Iraq-Iran war and its calls for a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the conflict based on international norms and U.N. Charter.

Interior Minister Returns After Conveying Messages

JN231700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul

[Text] Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member, minister of the interior, and envoy of President Saddam Husayn, returned to Baghdad today after conveying messages from the president to Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad, Bahraini Amir 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan.

Communique No 2,758 Reports Combat 26-27 Jul

JN271724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,758 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued their valiant fighting in defense of great Iraq and its people. They inflicted further losses on our nation's enemies with God's help and the men's zeal. The following is a roundup for our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force continued its brave attacks, inflicting certain death on great numbers of remnants of the Khomeyniite clique. The Air Force demolished numerous enemy artillery emplacements and personnel positions. It destroyed a large number of vehicles and equipment, as well as a great quantity of weapons. After carrying out 68 combat missions today, our rapacious hawks and their aircraft returned safely to base. God be praised.

2. The valiant knights of our helicopter gunships continued to combat the racist enemies. They inflicted further losses on the enemy's personnel, positions, weapons, and vehicles. After carrying out 38 combat missions, the knights and their aircraft returned safely to base in God's care.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two ammunition dumps were detonated, one enemy weapons emplacement and two vehicles — one of them loaded with personnel — were destroyed, one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged, and one 40-mm launcher and one 60-mm mortar were seized.

4. Four scoundrels were killed, one machinegun was destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two vehicles, one of them of large construction, were destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Three enemy personnel were injured and one 106-mm gun was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Using long-range artillery, the despotic Khomeyniite clique shelled residential neighborhoods in the Qal'at Dazah district and the (Qazanyah) subdistrict. The enemy shelling martyred seven civilians, including one child. Five citizens, including a child and a woman in the Qal'at Dazah district, were injured in this shelling. Two children were wounded in the (Qazanyah) subdistrict and a number of houses were damaged.

Such ugly crimes as these confirm the Khomeyni regime's criminal nature and expose the falsehood of its claims before the international community. As it is known, they will not pass without severe punishment at the proper time. Mercy to our martyrs and a speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 July 1987

Political Sources Address 'Second' Soviet 'Warning'

TA280854 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem addressed the second Soviet warning to Israel on the Jericho missile, saying that Israel's first reaction holds now, too. Israel has no intention of attacking the Soviet Union, which is not an enemy.

The sources pointed out the Soviet warnings should not be taken too seriously, because it is absurd to think that anyone would imagine that Israel would try to harm an international superpower. [passage omitted on the Soviet warning, Peres and Shamir reactions to the first warning]

'Progress' in 'Clandestine Contacts' With USSR

TA280923 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has expressed readiness to accept the principle of excluding the PLO from direct participation in the international conference, but still insists that the organization maintain the right to select the Palestinian representatives. The Soviets are likewise ready to accept the principle that the conference will be devoid of powers to force its position on the participants and that the superpowers will be denied the right to impose a veto. A message in this vein has recently been delivered to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as part of the clandestine contacts on the international conference.

The Soviets are still demanding that the conference have some powers, such as following negotiations closely [livuy tzamud], and that a separate Palestinian delegation be established independent of Jordan. *Hadashot* has also learned that Peres regards the Soviet stand as a sign of progress, although the gap between the Israeli and Soviet positions is still wide. [passage omitted on Peres' reaction to the Soviet decision to supply Syria with MIG-29's]

Peres Rejects Shamir's 'No' to USSR, Conference

TA280434 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said the Soviets are present in the area anyway, and if Israel says no to them, they will, to spite us, do the opposite and act in a destructive manner. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that at the end of a tour of Haifa and its environs, Mr Peres reacted to Prime Minister Shamir's three no's: to the Soviet Union, to an international conference, and to the PLO. On the international conference, Mr Peres said we should say yes to a format modeled on the 1973 international conference that led to Camp David and its outcome, following which not a single Israeli or Egyptian soldier fell on the common border for many years. Minister Peres said King Husayn also wants such an outcome, and it is Husayn who is the answer to the PLO.

Favors Partition, Confederation

TA281145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has a choice: either divide the land with the Palestinians and impose a partition in the country, or share the government with them through a confederation. Speaking this morning in Jerusalem before the international forum of young leaders from Europe, Peres said he could support either idea, provided it is based on an agreement reached through negotiations. At the foreign minister's speech was reporter Dick Winter.

[Begin recording] [Winter] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres did not shy away this morning from one of the most controversial issues in Israeli politics: the future of the administered territories.

[Peres] We have to make a historic choice: either to incorporate in Israel more territories and endanger our clear-cut majority, or maybe to satisfy ourselves with less territories, but keeping in line a country with a clear Jewish majority.

[Winter] The historic choice, says Peres, is clear-cut, but what is the political, the practical way to go about achieving it? The foreign minister says that the pragmatic choices come down to two: partition or confederation.

[Peres] When you have two people living on the very same land, you have a choice: either to divide the land and have a partition, or to share the government and have a confederation. I would go for both of them, provided that all of them or each of them will be based on agreement.

[Winter] In the final analysis, says Shim'on Peres, the question of the return of the administered territories is a moral one.

[Peres] Never try to become a master of another people. Whatever talents and wisdom you have, invest in the betterment of your own self. [end recording]

Shamir Sees 'Hostility' in Soviet Jewry Issue

TA280423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says there has been no change in Soviet policy toward Israel or Soviet Jewry under Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost, or openness, policy. Speaking to the forum of young political leaders yesterday in Jerusalem, Shamir said until Soviet Jews are allowed to emigrate freely, glasnost does not exist.

[Begin Shamir recording] We don't see until this moment any change. Unfortunately, we are facing the same Soviet policy, the same hostility towards the State of Israel and all that this state symbolizes. And, on the other hand, we don't see any real change in the Soviet policy towards the most important problem of the freedom and human rights of our Jewish brethren in Soviet Russia. The fact that Ida Nudel is still suffering in Russia and is not permitted to come here and embrace her sister, this fact is

the best illustration that in this framework of relations with Israel this glasnost doesn't exist, and we are asking once and again the Soviet leaders: Let our brethren leave Soviet Russia. [end recording]

USSR's Filaret Meets With Herzog on Soviet Jewry

TA270823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Bishop Filaret of the Russian Orthodox Church promised President Herzog this morning that he will bring Israel's requests regarding freedom of religion and culture for Soviet Jews to the attention of the Soviet authorities. President Hayim Herzog received Filaret and his delegation this morning, asking that the church lend its hand in ensuring that promises given Jewish leaders on this matter are kept. Bishop Filaret said there is no problem with regard to learning Hebrew, but Soviet rabbis he has befriended told him that the Jewish public is not inclined to lead a religious life. President Herzog told him in response that this is a result of the fact that the study of Judaism is prohibited.

Following the meeting, Filaret told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that he hopes the traffic of pilgrims from the USSR to the Holy Land will be resumed when progress is made on the peace process.

Filaret Meets Minister Hammer

TA272022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The head of the Foreign Department of the Russian Orthodox Church has promised to raise the idea of visits to the Soviet Union by Israel's chief rabbis, as well as other rabbis. Metropolitan Filaret met today with Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer. Hammer said the Soviet Union should permit the visits of the rabbis, just as Israel permits Russian Orthodox Church delegations to visit Israel. The Russian Church official also promised to look into the cases of refuseniks Ida Nudel and Yosef Bigun.

Peres Discloses Secret Meeting With SFRY's Mojsov

TA271725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today he met secretly with Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov during a recent visit to Europe. The foreign minister said he discussed ways for improving relations between the two countries, which have not had diplomatic ties since 1967. Peres said the meeting took place in Geneva over 2 weeks ago, but refused to give any details. The disclosure of the meeting was the second indication this week of an improvement in relations between Israel and Yugoslavia after Belgrade's news agency TANJUG opened an office in Jerusalem.

Interests Office, Flights Expected

TA271452 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 87 p 4

[Report by Roni Sheqed]

[Excerpt] Yugoslavia is going to start direct flights to Israel, principally in order to encourage tourism between the two countries.

Tourist traffic between Israel and Yugoslavia has in fact never stopped, even after diplomatic relations between the countries were severed. Jerusalem anticipates that within the next few months a Yugoslav interests office will be opened in Israel as a step toward the renewal of diplomatic relations. It is expected that Hungary will also open an interests office in Israel soon.

There are further signs of a "warming up" in relations with Yugoslavia: The Habima Theater has been invited to take part in the autumn festival in Yugoslavia; representatives from Israel will participate in symposia in Yugoslavia, to which representatives of Mediterranean countries are invited; in Belgrade it has been decided to strengthen links with the socialist parties in Israel; and in Tel Aviv an office of the Yugoslav news agency was opened yesterday [as published]. [passage omitted]

State Reportedly Mediating PRC Arms Sales to Iran

TA271339 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 87 p 4

[Text] The French weekly *Le Journal de Dimanche* writes that on many occasions Israel has acted as an agent in arms deals between China and Iran.

Experts on Middle East affairs cited by the weekly claim that recently, after a certain halt, Israel resumed this middle-man activity.

The weekly writes that in the summer of 1985 Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Beijing and signed an arms deal there totaling $1 billion. At first these weapons were supplied through the Chinese weapons company's foreign agencies, but later the Chinese feared to arouse the Americans' ire and decided to send the weapons via Israel.

Ben-Aharon Says International Conference Idea 'Dead'

TA271625 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 July 87 p B2

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar in Ben-Aharon's office; date not given]

[Excerpt] The decision of the U.S. Administration not to get involved in the internal debate in Israel improves Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's chances of serving out his term to the end. The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, contributed a great deal to this decision, despite Secretary of State George Shultz' clear support of the conference idea.

[Eldar] In spite of your many efforts to turn the Americans away from the issue of the international conference, it seems clear they believe it is the only path that will lead to direct negotiations. At least it looks that way from the Murphy-Polyakov talks.

[Ben-Aharon] It is true that they are constantly examining the subject with Egypt, Israel, and especially with Jordan, but they are still checking other options. The bottom line of the Murphy-Polyakov talks is that the USSR is not ready under any circumstances to accept the idea of an international opening to direct talks. It is ascribing crucial functions to a conference and is not ready to yield on the issue of cooperation with the PLO as such, although it is flexible on the subject of timing and definitions [hagdarot].

[Eldar] I did not get the impression from Murphy's reports that he left his talks with the Soviets disappointed.

[Ben-Aharon] The Americans have their own reasons for this. They are engaged in negotiations with the Soviets that are more important, from their point of view, namely demilitarization and missiles. This administration wants to conclude something with the USSR before the end of its term, and therefore it would not want to lock the gates or to cause a shock that would interfere with the missile issue. In addition, as long as the Americans have not decided that they have an option they can sell to the Arab countries and to Israel, they will not abandon the idea of an international conference. My assessment, and I take full responsibility for it, is that the subject of the international conference is dead. It no longer exists.

[Eldar] What can you say about the confirmation you gave *The Jerusalem Post* about the Peres-Husayn meeting and about the handing over to *The New York Times* of the document on the agreement?

[Ben-Aharon] I never confirmed the meeting. The reporter put this into the question and it came out looking as if I had confirmed the fact. *The New York Times*, with all due respect, is only one newspaper. What can *The New York Times* do, anyway? I explained to every official I met with in the United States why we object to the Pickering document. I asked administration officials: What is going on? Have you become so weak that you are ready to bring in the USSR? They had no ready-made answers. They said, We are skeptical just as you are, but this is what there is. Is the prime minister proposing an alternative?

The surprising thing is that there is a meeting point and a congruence concerning the possible substance of an arrangement between those who speak about territorial compromise and believe in an international conference and those who oppose these two elements. Therefore, if we were to remove them from the agenda and get to the heart of the matter — what can we do today with Jordan and with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza — we would discover that there is broad agreement between the two camps, more than the politicians sometimes present.

[Eldar] Do you mean Peres is offering Jordan, at the initial stage anyway, negotiations for a functional interim settlement?

[Ben-Aharon] Certainly, but Husayn wants — by means of the conference — to sit back and let someone else worry for him about self-determination and withdrawal to the 1967 borders. He will tell the Jews, you see, that the whole world says these are the demands on them. The focus on procedure has tripped us up needlessly. We have aggravated the obstacle by moving toward him in this game.

[Eldar] This week, in the prime minister's meeting with 'Abd al-Majid, he had an excellent opportunity to learn that in principle all his alternatives — "mini-conference" or renewal of autonomy talks — are unacceptable to the other side.

[Ben-Aharon] Egypt is not the main partner, and it is ready to accept any outcome that is acceptable to Jordan and Israel. 'Abd al-Majid had no more than a mandate to listen. I claim that an international conference is less practical than a regional conference. Husayn says he is not ready to stand unprotected, and the proposal for a regional conference is a result of this. There also is no dispute that there must be a credible Palestinian representation.

[Eldar] You insisted upon including the subject of normalization in the Inner Cabinet decision on arbitration of the Tabah issue, yet in a talk with 'Abd al-Majid the same problems cropped up again.

[Ben-Aharon] There was a slight improvement in the Egyptian media as a result of Peres' last visit to Egypt. There was nothing more than that. It is not good that we are growing accustomed to this. How many times can you raise again and again the things that were contained in the Inner Cabinet decision? It embarrasses both sides. It is important, however, to show the Arab countries the advantages of this whole business. If we do not remind Egypt again about subjects such as Ra's al-Burqah, they will say to themselves that it is not necessary to make an effort because it is not important to Israel.

[Eldar] You are the chief opponent of the U.S. compromise proposal on the Tabah dispute, and there are experts who think that in the end, as a result of this, we will lose both sovereignty, and ownership and management of the hotel.

[Ben-Aharon] In yielding sovereignty we yield control, unless the concession on sovereignty is made for the good of a third party, and it is possible to talk about this. We cannot complain to Egypt if, after we yield sovereignty, they begin to apply to Tabah all the rules that apply in the Sinai. There is no reason for us to yield unilaterally because we checked the Egyptian memorandum, with its arguments, and it is not as good as we thought. If we express a willingness to accept such a compromise, we are weakening our position in regard to the arbitrators, who might think the Israelis themselves are unsure of their case.

[Eldar] Do you believe the recommendations drawn up on South Africa by your office, among others, will be accepted in the Inner Cabinet?

[Ben-Aharon] This is not the end of the story. This is not a document that is about to be approved. There are several issues that are not a problem, such as items we never bought or sold and

which we will be able to buy from them in the future. This is very nice and is on a par with what the Europeans are doing. They also talk about all kinds of steps but continue trading and allow South Africa to produce various products under a European patent. We do not have to be like them, but we also do not have to be heroes standing at the head of the line.

[Eldar] Do you have complaints against Ambassador Pickering?

[Ben-Aharon] Not at all, he is talented and cautious. I said to him only in connection with his sharp public criticism of what is going in Judaea and Samaria: "We are an open society. If you have something to say, come and say it, but this manner of criticism is not the accepted way." [passage omitted]

Analysis Sees EC Middle East Stance Worsening

TA260634 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] "A change for the worse" has occurred over the past few months in the European Community's Middle East policy, according to the official Israeli analysis of the EC Council of Ministers' Copenhagen Declaration of July 13.

The analysis, by government experts, compares the Copenhagen Declaration, in support of convening an international conference for Middle East peace, with the EC's previous major declaration on Middle East policy, in Brussels on February 23.

The analysis, dated July 16, states that "in principle, the Copenhagen Declaration constitutes a continuation of Brussels and there is no substantial ideological difference between the two declarations."

But there are differences between them "on the tactical plane. In this respect," states the analysis, "a change for the worse has occurred vis-a-vis Israel in the exclusivity the Copenhagen Declaration accords to the (1980) Venice (Declaration) principles as a framework for a settlement in its mention of 'the deterioration of the economic and social situation' and of 'the human rights' (issue) in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza District."

On the other hand, the analysis notes a change for the better in the Copenhagen Declaration's lack of reference to the UN, as compared with the Brussels Declaration's specification of an international conference "under UN auspices."

The analysis also states that whereas the Brussels Declaration had merely expressed "support" for the international conference, Copenhagen Declaration stressed the necessity of such a gathering. "The Copenhagen Declaration states unequivocally that an international conference is the only existing formula that can advance (the cause of) Middle East peace."

As regards the Venice Declaration, which spoke of the need for PLO "association" with future peace talks and the Palestinians' right to "self-determination" in any settlement, "the Brussels Declaration stated that the EC countries 'had declared a number of times in the past, and especially in the Venice Declaration, the principles upon which a solution to the Middle East conflict must be based'." On the other hand, states the analysis, the Copenhagen Declaration "accords exclusivity to the Venice Declaration and refers only to it as the framework in accordance with which the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be arranged, including the Palestinian problem."

As regards the West Bank and Gaza, the Brussels Declaration had only posited the improvement in the standard of living in the territories irrespective of whether or not a political settlement is reached. "The Copenhagen Declaration adopts sharper terminology from Israel's standpoint on this matter. Instead of expressing interest in the improvement of ***the standard of living***, the Copenhagen Declaration refers to the matter of ***human rights*** in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and mentions the EC's commitment to the preservation of (sic) "the respect of human rights in the occupied territories'," states the analysis.

Moreover, in contrast with the Brussels Declaration, states the analysis, the Copenhagen Declaration says that there has been "a deterioration in the economic and social situation in the territories and in the whole area, which may threaten the achievement of peace."

IDF Commander on Significance of 27 Jul Operation

TA281139 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Interview with the head of the IDF Operations Department, identified only as Brigadier General Y., by Alon Ben-David on 27 July; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-David] Brig Gen Y., it has been a long time since we last witnessed raids such as the naval operation carried out this morning. Has our strategy in Lebanon changed in any way? Have we decided on a new method of operation?

[Brig Gen Y.] The concept that has always been our guideline — namely, that we choose the most suitable ways and means to attack the terrorists wherever we find them getting organized — still holds today. In this specific case, the most appropriate method was found to be the one we employed.

[Ben-David] What risks are involved in such an operation and how effective is it?

[Brig Gen Y.] The risks are the same as in any operation, and its effectiveness is evidenced by the fact that the terrorist organizations in the Sidon area realize that we can reach that locality in other ways, and not only by air, as they have grown accustomed to seeing us do.

[Ben-David] Reports from Lebanon have maintained that the terrorists who were killed belonged to the Popular Liberation Army, a local Shi'ite militia. Do we have the same information?

[Brig Gen Y.] It is a Sunni organization, not Shi'ite, which cooperates with and grants assistance to the terrorist organizations in Sidon.

[Ben-David] Over the past 1 or 2 months, we have launched two missions against pro-Syrian organizations, including those affiliated with the Syrian National Party. Why is that? Have these pro-Syrian organizations been demonstrating some extraordinary organizational activity?

[Brig Gen Y.] These pro-Syrian organizations have been around for quite some time. They have carried out attacks against us and have tried to perpetrate even more. This does not mark a change of direction either on our part or the Syrians'. In this case, we focused on some targets run by these organizations which fitted in with our criteria for mounting an operation, so we consequently decided to attack them.

[Ben-David] Although it seems that the security strip has recently been relatively quiet, Israel still maintains a high level of activity in that zone or even beyond its boundaries. Is there any reason for this?

[Brig Gen Y.] The activity in that area has never ceased. It includes activity by the Shi'ite organizations and Hizballah, each operating according to their capability and in the way they choose. Although there have not been as spectacular or headline-making operations as we had known before, still the activity continues. We still have mines, explosive charges, and shooting incidents in the security zone, and we must bear in mind that the security strip was first created to prevent them, or to absorb such activity instead of Israel proper. Our operations against the terrorist organizations are not confined only to the security strip. We have not limited ourselves to carrying out missions only up to the security strip's northern border; we have operated and will continue to operate wherever we spot the terrorists organizing and maintaining targets, and if we find it necessary and our criteria for mounting an operation are met, we will attack.

[Ben-David] The area we raided today is actually controlled, so to speak, by the Palestinian terrorist organizations. Do we know of any special activity on their part of any particular movement of personnel or weapons?

[Brig Gen Y.] Palestinian terrorists reached that coastal area where we operated last night not too long ago. I cannot at this moment assess the effects of our operation, and we still do not have information that it in any way changed anything in Sidon, but I will not be surprised if this will indeed be the case.

[Ben-David] The question is whether we had noticed any special Palestinian organizational activity before the raid?

[Brig Gen Y.] We never wait for anything special to happen. The Palestinian terrorist organizations in the Sidon area have sent out a number of squads on missions inside Israel. We do not wait for the attacks to succeed and only then deal with the problem. Each time we locate an appropriate target, we will attack it in order to thwart further attacks.

Decision on East Jerusalem Electric Company Delayed
TA240928 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] A sharp dispute between the Likud and Labour parties over the future of the Arab-owned Jerusalem District Electric Company (JDEC) has delayed a Cabinet discussion of the issue, originally slated for Sunday.

Likud ministers have announced that they favour a dismantling of the financially ailing firm. They rejected a plan by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal to renew the company's concession for 10-15 years in return for limiting its power supply to Arab clients in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Under its current concession, which expires at the end of the year, the JDEC also supplies power to Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem across the Green Line, and to West Bank settlements within the area of its concession. These communities would be supplied by the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC), according to Shahal's plan.

The East Jerusalem company owes some NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 33 million to the IEC, from which it buys 95 per cent of its power. Shahal says his plan, by reducing the area the JDEC serves, would enable the company to run more efficiently.

Likud ministers, with the exception of Housing Minister David Levi, rejected Shahal's plan, saying it threatens Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem by leaving half of its power supply in Arab hands.

Shahal blames extremists within Likud for the "politically motivated" stance which could "harm the status of united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

The U.S. already informed Israel that it would not back an Israeli decision to dismantle the JDEC and that it would not veto a possible UN Security Council resolution condemning the move, Shahal said.

He added that the Likud position was "strange" because he had coordinated his plan in advance with Prime Minister Shamir, and the scheme had been approved by a large majority in the Inner Cabinet.

Shahal said the Likud stance made a Cabinet discussion meaningless at this point. Shamir agreed to delay debate of the issue and the two are to meet this week to try and resolve the deadlock.

A senior defence source was quoted yesterday as saying that dismantling the JDEC would have "disastrous" consequences for the situation in the territories. The firm, which is the largest Arab economic concern in the West Bank, is viewed by many Palestinians as a national symbol. The company's labour union has vowed to fight any attempt to damage the company's "Arab character."

Survey Sees Economic Expansion Continuing

TA240932 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 87 p 21

[Report by Pinhas Landau]

[Text] The economy is continuing to grow in almost every sector, with a slight shift in emphasis from the local to export markets. Employment, however, is not growing in industry, but is expanding in commerce, tourism and construction, as these sectors emerge from the slump that hit them in 1985/86.

These are the main conclusions of the quarterly survey of business trends compiled by Me'ir Tamari, the senior economist in the office of the governor of the Bank of Israel.

Based on replies from 178 companies in different areas of the economy, the survey shows a picture in which output and sales grew faster in the second quarter of 1987, after they had slowed down in the first months of this year.

Orders for the domestic market slipped slightly, but export orders climbed significantly. Inventories rose, as did most forms of credit, but Tamari ascribes these changes to the increased level of overall activity.

Looking ahead, the percentage of companies expecting higher production in the coming months dropped, suggesting that the expansion is stabilizing.

On the employment front, several areas of the economy reported stronger demand for labour, especially in the commerce and hotel sectors. In industry, however, demand is still depressed by the uncertainties hanging over many firms in electronics, metals and firms producing for the building industry.

But the construction industry itself is now showing clear signs of emerging from its long slump, and the growth noted in the last two surveys has expanded to encompass even heavy equipment firms, while residential construction is picking up all over the country.

Hotels showed the fastest rate of improvement, continuing a trend that began in late 1986. Although local tourism is slowing, foreigners have returned to boost activity throughout the industry.

Capacity is not a problem standing in the way of further expansion, according to most of the survey's respondents. The factor most often mentioned as providing a bottleneck to increased output was the lack of sufficient labour.

Overall, Tamari found that potential trouble spots in the corporate landscape, such as reduced availability of credit, the piling up of inventories, or slumps in sales, were all absent.

The economy, as reflected in the answers of the firms included in the survey, is holding to a course of steady expansion that seems set to continue for at least several more months.

Al-Masri on PLO, Peace Conference, U.S. Ties

JN261531 Amman AL-HAQIQAH in Arabic
23 Jul 87 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Editor in Chief Nabil Ghazzawi — place, date not given]

[Text] [Ghazzawi] Mr Minister, it has been reported that during his latest visit to Jordan, Austrian President Waldheim offered to mediate between Amman and the PLO. It was also reported that Egypt proposed several ideas regarding Jordan's relationship with the PLO. How true are these reports?

[Al-Masri] President Waldheim has not made a specific proposal with regard to the mediation between Jordan and the PLO. It was clear from my meeting with the Austrian foreign minister during his official visit that Austria supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and views the PLO as their legitimate representative. As for Egypt, President Mubark is personally anxious — even before the latest PNC session in Algiers was held — for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship to be maintained and strengthened. He also strongly supported the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. When political coordination between Jordan and the PLO was suspended, President Mubarak continued his efforts to bring views closer together. These efforts continue. He also still believes the ideal formula is the implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

[Ghazzawi] Hani al-Hasan, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, said that his visit to Jordan has not changed the state of coolness, while 'Arafat recently said that several obstacles were recently overcome in Jordanian-PLO relations.

[Al-Masri] When an Arab reads what Hani al-Hasan says and what Mr Yasir 'Arafat says on the same subject, whom do you think they believe: Yasir 'Arafat or Hani al-Hasan?

I believe we accept the words of the higher source, even if Hani al-Hasan had held the dialogue or attended the interview. However, I believe there is a desire by both sides to once again bring about a rapprochement of views. In this regard, I wish to emphasize that Jordan sets no conditions for PLO participation in the international conference. The condition that the PLO accept Resolutions 242 and 338 is not a Jordanian condition, and rejection of the PLO's participation in the international conference through an independent delegation and rejection of the idea of an indepedent Palestinian state is not a Jordanian rejection. Brother Yasir 'Arafat knows this, and in his numerous statements he blames other parties, not Jordan.

[Ghazzawi] International circles view the convening of an international conference as a plan in limbo or an almost impossible plan. The optimism, or what you personally referred to as Jordanian optimism-pessimism [al-tasha'ul], is viewed by political circles as a continuation of Jordanian diplomacy based on the principle of constant motion and preventing a state of political vacuum. What are the justifications for Jordan's optimism and for Jordan's pessimism?

[Al-Masri] Brother Nabil, you are aware and the Arab reader is aware of King Husayn's tireless efforts to market the idea of an international conference. Regardless of any assessment of the possibility of its success, Jordanian diplomacy will continue to seek support for the idea of convening an international conference. With regard to optimism, I say optimism because the idea of the international conference was not being discussed in the past and enjoyed very little support. The Soviets clearly supported the idea from the beginning, but many regional and international groupings did not appreciate the importance of convening such a conference. In the past 2 years — thanks to the indefatigable efforts of several parties, perhaps foremost among whom is Jordan — support for the conference became general and comprehensive. Perseverence, movement, and faith in the step we are making have brought about an improvement in the attitude toward the international conference. We believe the maintenance of the tempo is bound to lead the United States — and then Israel — to acknowledge that the only solution that will lead to a peaceful settlement is the international conference. With regard to the pessimistic side of my words, it is due to my awareness of the internal Israeli game and the divisions in Israeli politics, and also my awareness of the influence of the Israeli leaders over the U.S. leaders. Consequently, the idea of an international conference will prehaps remain in limbo until Israel accepts it.

One of the positive results of the efforts we are discussing is that everyone now knows that the ball is in the Israeli court. The accusations that were once leveled against the Arabs that they always adopt a rejectionist stand are no longer valid, and many leaders, particularly European leaders, no longer believe this. In my opinion, this is a great achievement. Through *Al-Haqiqah*, I would like to reply to those who claim there is nothing to gain from Jordan's efforts to convene an international conference, because it will never be convened and all our efforts will therefore go to waste. I would like to tell them that such conclusions are wrong. Any Arab citizen realizes that the chances for convening an international conference are now better than they were 2 years ago. In addition, any politician or leader in any country is obligated to tackle all eventualities, to settle any problem, and improve conditions. This is what is taking place.

[Ghazzawi] Mr Minister, it goes without saying that Jordanian diplomacy, known for its sagacity and farsightedness, has considered the possibility that the idea of an international conference may fail. What is the Jordanian alternative on the one hand and the Arab alternative on the other to an international conference?

[Al-Masri] I do not agree with you that the international conference may fail. But as I previously explained, every politician and every leader must take future developments into consideration and plan for them. I believe the alternatives consist of a unified Arab stand as well as joint Arab efforts. These are the most important alternatives.

Another alternative is the steadfastness of the Palestinians on their soil. Israel spares no efforts to cancel this demographic factor, which is very important for us and very serious for it. The bolstering of the citizens there and the enhancement of their Palestinian identity are among the alternatives we must consider. Jordan is working to achieve this, and its efforts to that end are known by all parties.

[Ghazzawi] Jordan wagers on Europe with respect to the international conference and the tackling of the Gulf war, in spite of the fact that the European card has become a very weak one in international issues, including the Middle East problem. How do you explain this Jordanian stand? Is it because there is no other alternative or because the wagering on the two superpowers is impossible?

[Al-Masri] We do not wager on the Europeans. They are only part of the pressure we expect will be exercised against the United States and Israel. The European political card you have described as very weak is not that weak. The Venice Declaration is explicit and continues to reflect the stand of the EEC countries. I believe the Europeans continue to abide by the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; the need to settle the Palestinian problem; the recognition of this people's legitimate rights; the need to convene an international conference; and their acknowledgement that the PLO is the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. We recently devoted our efforts toward Europe because all of the main regional blocs — such as the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO, the socialist bloc, and the OAU — clearly support the Arab viewpoint on Middle East causes. Europe was the only regional group whose stand had not been clearly defined. That is why we focused our efforts toward it. I believe all of the Arabs have succeeded in this endeavor. That is why I said earlier that Israel and the United States are the only ones that do not support the Arab viewpoint.

[Ghazzawi] The Jordanian leadership has a very high capacity for patience and perseverance; otherwise, it would have long abandoned mediating the differences between Iraq and Syria. Diplomatically speaking, no details are likely to emerge on why the mediation effort failed to produce results or who was to blame for the failure of the Syrian-Iraqi summit. How would you assess the mediation in terms of politics, petroleum, and frontiers?

[Al-Masri] Reconciliation between Iraq and Syria is something all the Arabs want — both governments and peoples. Normalized relations between Iraq and Syria would create new equations in the region. It is for this reason that every Arab looks forward to the reconciliation efforts bearing fruit. This affects the Iraq-Iran war fundamentally and directly, and could possibly bring it to an end as well as check Iranian ambitions in the Gulf. It would also help efforts to convene an international conference; promote a recongition of the national, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; and restore momentum to common Arab action which has been partially paralyzed for too long.

[Ghazzawi] Neither a full-fledged nor a limited Arab summit has been convened because its success would not have been ensured. Why do you think the circumstances are not ripe for its convening? Is there anything new in the efforts of Saudi Arabia and the Arab League in this regard?

[Al-Masri] Agreement in principle exists on the need for an Arab summit, but persistent Arab differences stand in the way. It is common knowledge that our brothers in Saudi Arabia are working on creating the right atmosphere. There are intensive efforts being made by King Fahd, His Majesty King Husayn, the Arab League secretary general, and other Arab leaders to lessen inter-Arab tensions. A date still must be set for a summit. One cannot think ahead at this point in time, not before such efforts have crystalized.

[Ghazzawi] Would you say the new Gulf developments, notably the recourse to world powers to take the responsibility for the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, would cut Iran down to size and bring the Gulf war closer to an end? Or would this lead to an internationalization of the conflict and the heightening of tension to a point where things would get out of hand?

[Al-Masri] I would say that having been defeated in its recent ground offensives against Basra, Iran now wants to concentrate on another front; namely, the waterways. The aim is to offset its outright failure along the Basra sector, embroil a number of world powers in the region, and then exploit the situation to further its own interests. However, I think there may be a desire, albeit not so apparent now, on the part of the world powers to avert a confrontation among them. In my opinion, it is fundamentally important that major world political and economic powers tell Iran that enough is enough, and no further Iranian blackmail will be tolerated. Unfortunately, certain Western nations that protest on neutrality take account only of their commercial interests or even Iranian threats, and choose to ignore the material and human losses sustained by both sides in the war.

[Ghazzawi] It is no secret that recently relations between Jordan and the United States have been cool due to the U.S. Administration's failure to deliver on promises of arms and assistance. The U.S. Administration is said to have sent the Jordanian leadership letters of clarification and explanation. Despite this, a visit to Washington by His Majesty King Husayn is still pending. How would you assess relations with Washington in all its aspects: the proposed international conference, the unrealized arms shipments, and the projected aid to the development plan for the occupied territory?

[Al-Masri] American-Jordanian relations are good, normal, and will continue that way. However, we do not actually mean we disagree with the United States over many issues, specifically regarding the Palestinian cause and the international conference. [sentence as published] But, as we have said on many occasions, we believe in dialogue. Just as through dialogue we were able to explain our positions and secure the support of important world groups such as the European community, we think continued contacts with the United States will eventually effect a change in the American attitude, since ours is a just cause. Not that I am very optimistic; it is part of the job of every politican and official to keep working and moving if he is to win support for his viewpoint.

'Green Cells' Again Threaten Swiss Interests

NC271617 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1606 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The Green Cells organization has again threatened Switzerland with the gravest consequences if it does not immediately release Husayn al-Hariri, the hijacker of an African airliner. The organization issued a statement saying that it knows well how and when to strike at Swiss interests. This threat, which came in a telephone call to a Western news agency, is the second made since Al-Hariri was arrested on Friday.

Red Cross Workers Not in Danger

NC271914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1904 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The Green Cells organization has again threatened Switzerland, saying that Swiss interests will be the target of attacks if Lebanese national Husayn al-Hariri, who hijacked an African airliner, is handed over to French authorities.

An unknown person has contacted a Western news agency in Beirut, stating that International Red Cross employees in Lebanon will not be harmed and can move about freely and without fear.

Embassy Security Strengthened

NC280908 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] According to a security report, the organization in charge of protecting embassies strengthened its security of the Swiss Embassy building in Clemenceau in West Beirut today. Similar measures have been implemented around the residences of Swiss diplomats and nationals in West Beirut.

Roads Closed around Italian Embassy in Beirut

NC280823 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Roads around the Italian Embassy in the Al-Hamra district [of West Beirut] were reopened at approximately 0915 today after a car parked near the embassy building and suspected of containing explosives was found to be safe. Roads had been closed for nearly an hour because of this vehicle. According to reports, the vehicle is a Peugeot 504 bearing registration number 216012 and belongs to a clergyman named Shaykh Ahmad Muhammad al-Su'ayli.

Junblatt Supports Iran Against 'Crusade'

NC271345 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Excerpt] At a news conference held today to mark the Bayt al-Din festival, PSP Leader Walid Junblatt discussed the current political situation in Lebanon. During the noon news conference, which took place at the People's Palace in Bayt al-Din, he read a statement to journalists in which he defined a number of stances. Attending the festival were PSP Politburo members, PSP Central Committee members, and members of the Civil Administration Executive Committee. Junblatt stated the following:

[Begin recording] Today we are beginning the programs of the Bayt al-Din cultural festival. We wish that this festival were taking place under better political and economic circumstances so that all Lebanese citizens from around the country could participate in it with us. We wish that political circumstances were better.

It seems, however, that the political and economic clouds are getting darker and heavier. The meaning of the speeches made in Tripoli to mark the passage of 40 days after Karami's death is becoming clearer. We can conclude that there are two Islamic trends: The Arab national trend and the Phalangist-Israeli trend. This is not surprising. We warned in Tripoli against holding that extraordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies. The Army law which we denounced on 1 May emerged anew during this extraordinary session. The worthy Chamber of Deputies, through the godfather [Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni], allocates funds and again proposes 1.75 billion Lebanese pounds for the Army. This, of course, covers compensation, contributions, and rewards for those who murdered Rashid Karami and for those who rigged the Army helicopter, as well as treatment costs and assistance. What counts, anyway, is that the allocation of 1.75 billion pounds to the Army has been proposed by the godfather and the esteemed Chamber of Deputies. The rapporteur of the Financial Committee is Rene Mu'awwad, a friend of Rashid Karami, or at least, that is what I suppose.

What can we hope for or do? We hope that certain nationalist deputies will have a vestige of conscience and reject this bill, which was put forward by the well-known godfather. We hope that this session will be canceled. What shall we do? I have already said, and I say again, that there are two Islamic trends in Lebanon: an Islamic-Israeli-Phalangist trend and a patriotic one. We support the patriotic current even if this leads to the disintegration of the so-called expanded Islamic grouping.

Speaking about the Islamic trend in Lebanon reminds us of the Islamic trend in the Arab homeland. Under the slogan of the so-called protection of oil, the U.S. flag is now flying on some ships in the Gulf. This flag may soon fly over certain capitals in the Gulf, as it flew over B'abda and part of Lebanon when the multinational force was here. Thank God, we managed to expel that flag.

We may differ from the Islamic revolution over certain national and social concepts, but we support this revolution, Iran, and the struggling Muslim people who are now confronting an aggressive imperialist crusade from all directions. We stand by Iran and will support it with all our resources in confronting foreign fleets, specifically the U.S. and French fleets. We denounce terrorism, but we stand by Iran in all its Islamic and national attitudes. This is what I wanted to say today. It seems that the Islamic world is divided into an Islamic, Israeli-American world and an Islamic

world that is really national, progressive, and revolutionary. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kan'an Returns to Beirut To Reconcile Allies

NC280731 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, has returned to Beirut to try and heal the rift among the local allies of Damascus.

Paper on Formation of Unification, Liberation Front

JN271119 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
25 Jul 87 p 15

[Text] Beirut — Political leaders of all colors and affiliations were taken by surprise at the formation of the Unification and Liberation Front. Both those not joining the Front and those who attended the news conference at the Carlton Hotel were caught off guard when 'Asim Qansuh, the regional secretary of the Socialist Ba'th Party Organization, read the Front's political and organizational program. At the conclusion of the news conference, Dr Samir Sabbagh, leader of the independent Lebanese National Grouping, told those who remained in the hall that he has some reservations about participating in the Front.

Dr Sabbagh did not elaborate on the reasons for his reservations. He said that he had some remarks on how the Front was proclaimed and described it as hastily prepared. He stated: We were invited to attend a meeting without having been informed about the details of the political and organizational program.

Former Minister Marwan Hamadah supports Dr Sabbagh's view. He has admitted that the successive developments in east Sidon and Maghdushah made the leaders of the parties advance the date for proclaiming the Front's establishment following urgent consultations among its most prominent parties.

Hamadah, one of the most prominent men who formulated the Front's political and organizational program, said: We were racing against time. We were afraid that the battles raging in the Sidon area would overtake us, not in terms of preventing the establishment of the Front but in terms of dealing a blow against the alliances that had been established as a result of the Damascus talks, which had returned things to normal among the Amal Movement, the PSP and the Lebanese Communist Party.

Hamadah added: That is why we decided to extend invitations in complete secrecy to the parties that had expressed a desire to join the Front. Most of these parties did not even see the text of the program, although they had previously been acquainted with its principal titles.

Hamadah stressed that necessity expedited the proclamation of the Front, particularly after Mustafa Sa'd, the leader of the Nasirite Popular Grouping, distanced himself. He said: We were forced to leave for Sidon to tackle the problems with Deputy Nazih al-Bizri and Mustafa Sa'd.

He added: We succeeded in settling the problem with Brother Mustafa Sa'd and hope to do so with others, headed by the popular committees and association groupings, the Arab Socialist Union, the Nasirite Organization, and the independent Lebanese National Grouping. These will participate in the political leadership to play a prominent role in the situation in Beirut.

In reply to an *Al-Khalij* question, Hamadah denied the Lebanese Forces' television report that the Unification Front had planned to reopen political and military offices in Beirut but had given up the idea at the last moment.

Hamadah asserted: This matter is irrelevant, particularly as we emphasized in the Front's statement the need to expand the security plan and we called for the deployment of Syrian forces. We do not want the militias to return to Beirut, and we stressed this during the recent expanded Islamic meeting in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Hamadah predicted that the formation of the Unification and Liberation Front will expedite preparations for a national congress sponsored by former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Hamadah believes that the Front represents the political stand of the nationalist forces and perhaps their military stand as well when it comes to confrontation, if necessary. He said that a national congress can prevent a confrontation, but should one occur, it can be used to open the way to a political solution.

Referring to renewed clashes east of Sidon and in Sidon's environs, Hamadah affirmed that the military escalation there is intended to undermine the efforts being made to form the Unification and Liberation Front. The area of the clashes is being expanded to destroy the existing alliance between Amal and the PSP.

Hamadah expressed the fear that the conflict on the Sidon front will escalate. He emphasized that the Unification Front's establishment will contribute to ending the clashes. He said: I believe that the first fruit of the Front's establishment is the formation of a joint delegation to find out what is taking place in Tyre and to seek to calm the situation there.

A prominent leader in the Unification and Liberation Front told *Al-Khalij*: We will not allow the problem between Amal and our Palestinian brothers to continue. We will provide a solution on the basis of a stand on the Palestinian question in accordance with the communique proclaiming the establishment of the Unification and Liberation Front.

He maintained that what is taking place on the Sidon front is not a result of what happened in the Tyre area but has regional and international causes. He predicted that the situation in Sidon and its environs will not calm down. Although current efforts may bring about a lull in the fighting, it will be difficult to end the clashes completely.

He accused some of the local parties of joining in the military escalation in southern Lebanon. He contended that speedy establishment of the Front will give Palestinian officials in southern Lebanon two options: Either to authorize the Unification and

Liberation Front to draw up a solution or to open the door to developments that may prompt us to adopt a clear and frank stand that strengthens our belief that what is now taking place is due to regional and international circumstances.

He summed up: Although the Amal Movement may have made mistakes, we do not understand recent talk about the camp war flaring up again. Meanwhile, there are intensive contacts to prepare the ground for a candid meeting between the PNSF and the Unification and Liberation Front that will be devoted to a discussion of the renewed clashes and then to a reorganization of Lebanese-Palestinian relations. But some who fear such meetings may fail to bring about a cessation of hostilities in and around Sidon because the fighting is now closely linked to regional and international developments, given the suspension of Syria-Palestinian dialogue and the deterioration of the situation on the Gulf front, which might produce new political alliances in the Lebanese arena.

The following question will remain: After the establishment of the Unification and Liberation Front, what will be the future relationship between this Front and the Islamic Grouping led by Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid? A leader from the Unification Front answered that previously the Islamic Grouping had tried to depict the establishment of the Front as an attempt to bring the militias back to West Beirut. However, the Islamic Grouping heard President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks affirming that there is no intention of returning to the situation in West Beirut before the entry of the Syrian forces. The Unification Front leader affirmed that differences among the parties or between these parties and the Amal Movement focused on the security situation in Beirut. Today, nothing is disturbing security.

The Unification Front leader said: Some members of the Islamic Grouping are surprised at the establishment of the Unification Front. They believe the problem is that we lost hope of reaching an understanding with President Amin al-Jumayyil. Meanwhile, most of them are still betting on a rapproachement with the president. He added that during the Islamic Grouping's talks in Damascus, differences emerged between Minister Junblatt and some leaders of the Grouping. Junblatt accused them of establishing relations with the president.

Will the Unification and Liberation Front continue to exist, or will its fate be like that of the other fronts, such as the National Union Front and the Democratic Nationalist Front, which was formed from the parties allying with the Amal Movement?

The answer to this question was given by Engineer Qansuh when, at the beginning of his news conference as he read the text of the Unification and Liberation Front's statement, he said: We hope that this program before you represents the last of the fronts that have been formed so far.

Minister al-Hashim Returns From Morocco

NC271655 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Minister Joseph al-Hashim returned to Beirut today from Morocco, where he participated in the conference of Arab ministers of environment, interior, and information. He also conveyed a message from President al-Jumayyil to King Hassan.

MIG-21 Shot Down After Straying Over Iraq

JN281231 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: At 0907 today, 28 July 1987, a MIG-21 plane took off from Dayr al-Zawr airport on a training flight. While the pilot was carrying out his duties, he lost his way and entered Iraqi airspace by mistake, after which contact was lost with him. At 1039, the Iraqi authorities announced the plane had been shot down.

This conduct is unjustified given the circumstances of the incident, and its reasons should be explained, especially as there have been many similar actions by Iraqi planes and we did not shoot them down.

DPRK Vice Premier Arrives for 6-Day Visit

JN271215 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Kim Yong-nam, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus today on a 6-day official visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Shahir al-Duray'i, director of the Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Ustuwani, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

In an arrival statement, Kim Yong-nam praised the strong friendship between Syria and the DPRK — a friendship whose bases were laid down by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Kim Il-song. Kim Yong-nam added that his visit to Damascus is aimed at bolstering bilateral friendship, solidarity, and cooperation.

Official Talks Begin

JN271923 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Official Syrian-DPRK talks began at the Foreign Ministry today. The Syrian Arab side was led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the DPRK side was led by Kim Yong-nam, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs; Diyallah Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Shahir al-Duray'i, director of the Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, head of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department; and Walid al-Mu'allim, chief of the special bureau. On the DPRK side, the talks were attended by (Song), political adviser at the DPRK Foreign Ministry; (Kim Yong-sop), director of the Middle East Department at the DPRK Foreign Ministry [title as heard]; and (Hyong), assistant director of the Nonaligned Movement Department at the DPRK Foreign Ministry. They discussed the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and issues of mutual interest.

Poland's Mlynczak Arrives in Damascus 27 Jul

JN271203 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0815 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tadeusz Mlynczak, chairman of the Polish Democratic Party, deputy chairman of the Council of State, and member of the National Front's leadership, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria at the invitation of the [Ba'th] Party National Command.

Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the Central Command of the Progressive National Front led those who received the delegation at Damascus International Airport.

Meets Ba'th Party Official

JN272011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, has received Comrade Mlynczak, chairman of the Polish Democratic Party and deputy chairman of the Council of State, and his delegation. They are visiting the country at the invitation of the party's National Command. Comrade Salihah outlined the great achievements realized in various fields under the leadership of the struggler president, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party. He also reviewed the most important political issues. Furthermore, he noted Syria's principled and constant stand in dealing with all challenges to safeguard Arab rights, liberate occupied Arab territories, and regain the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. Comrade Salihah explained the continuing aggressive, expansionist line of the Zionist entity. Its barbaric crimes against the Arab land and people represent the ugliest forms of Nazism and fascism. These crimes receive multifaceted support from American imperialism and Zionism.

For his part, Comrade Mlynczak outlined the conspiracies experienced by the Polish People's Republic. He discussed how the Polish masses triumphed and upheld the progressive, socialist line. He reiterated Poland's support for Syria's just stand — led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party — in confronting the hostile plans. Mlynczak recalled that Poland opposed the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and broke off relations with Israel. Relations will not be restored until all the reasons which prompted their severance no longer exist. He also recalled that Poland backed President al-Asad's call for an international conference to define terrorism and distinguish it from popular struggles for liberation and independence. Comrade Mlynczak valued Syria's significant role in the Arab and international arenas to bring about just regional and international peace.

Meanwhile, both sides stressed the need for continued exchange visits on official and party levels in order to further foster existing relations in the interest of shared goals.

'High-Ranking' Delegation Departs for USSR

LD271751 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] A high-ranking DRA delegation headed by Muhammad Aziz, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, left for the Soviet Union today at the invitation of the Soviet authorities to take part in the seventh session of the Soviet-Afghan Economic Commission scheduled to be held in Moscow tomorrow. The vice chairman of the Council of Ministers is accompanied by Muhammad Hakim, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; the ministers of electrical energy and mines and industry; and the deputy ministers of the interior and commerce.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

District Reconciliation Commission Chairman Killed

LD271654 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] A source from the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission has reported that Ghulam Haydar, an elder of Andarab District in Baghlan Province and chairman of the national reconciliation commission of that district, was martyred by extremist and criminal elements last night. We come from God and to Him we return.

Extremist opposition elements attacked the [name indistinct] mosque at 2100 last night, martyring the Andarab National Reconciliation Commission chairman while he was performing prayers.

Rebels Call For Return of Ex-King Zahir Shah

BK280310 Hong Kong AFP in English
0147 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 27 (AFP) — An Afghan rebel gathering attended by large numbers of guerrilla commanders on Monday called for former Afghan King Zahir Shah to return to his country, pro-resistance sources said.

Commanders and several hundred supporters of three moderate parties, headed by religious leaders chanted slogans saying: "Long Live Zahir Shah," and condemned the former king's opponents for making derogatory remarks against him.

The meeting, held in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, was in response to remarks by a fundamentalist Afghan rebel party chief, Professor Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, against the former king and his supporters on Sunday.

Prof Sayyaf, whose Etehad-e Eslami Party is an important component of the seven-party Mujahidin alliance, dubbed Zahir Shah and his followers as "Kafirs (non Moslems)", the sources said.

Gandhi To Visit Colombo; Delhi Talks 'Hectic'

BK271603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is flying to Colombo on Wednesday [29 July] on a 2-day state visit to Sri Lanka. This was officially announced in New Delhi tonight. Mrs Sonia Gandhi will accompany the prime minister. The visit is at the invitation of the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, and Mrs Jayewardene.

The announcement of the prime minister's visit came at the end of a day of hectic discussions at various levels in New Delhi and Colombo on the latest set of proposals to resolve the 4-year old ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, had two meetings with President Jayewardene today. One of these was during a special session of the Sri Lankan Cabinet. Mr Dixit briefed it on the talks that India had with various Sri Lankan Tamil groups in Delhi on the proposals to resolve the ethnic problem. The Cabinet is understood to have approved proposals. However, the prime minister, Mr Premadasa and the minister for agriculture, Mr Jayasuriya, absented themselves from the meeting. Mr Dixit also had a second meeting with Mr Jeyewardene later in the evening.

Gandhi Meets With Opposition on Sri Lankan Accord

BK280904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had an hour-long meeting with leaders of various parties and groups in Parliament in New Delhi today. The meeting was entirely devoted to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and the agreement the prime minister and President Jayewardene will be signing in Colombo tomorrow. Mr Gandhi explained to the opposition leaders how India has been involved in the process to ensure that peace returns in Sri Lanka, and the ethnic problems solved early.

According to the agreement, a cease-fire will come into force within 24 hours of its signing and hostilities will come to an end. It also provides for the linkage of the Eastern and the Northern Provinces. A peace-keeping force will ensure implementation of the agreement. Indian observers will also be provided. The agreement also provides for the return of the Sri Lankan refugees in India, as well as repatriation of Indians in Sri Lanka.

Mr Gandhi told the opposition that he was really disappointed at the stand taken by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] about the agreement. He said the LTTE leaders had earlier agreed to the agreement though they had some reservations about the withdrawal of troops. He said the LTTE had also wanted that safety and security of its members should be ensured. The government had assured that this will be done.

Mr Gandhi said that all other Tamil groups had welcomed the agreement. The opposition leaders, who attended today's meeting, extended their support to the agreement.

The prime minister is leaving for Colombo tomorrow morning and will return on Thursday.

Gandhi Addresses Congress-I in Parliament

BK271616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government will not suppress or cover up anything. Addressing the general body of the Congress-I Party in parliament in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that the government will not allow anything that might weaken the country or in any way compromise its security. Stressing the need for maintaining vigilance on all sides, he reiterated that the country will proceed on its chosen path. He said we must look at everything objectively. We cannot do something simply because somebody is shouting about it.

Referring to the international situation, Mr Gandhi reiterated that there is design by outside powers to destabilize India. The happenings around us indicate positively and clearly that there is a link between what has been happening in the country and powers outside. This is a challenge which we would meet adequately. Mr Gandhi said that the government will not succumb to pressures from within or abroad. He said the people will have to be very vigilant, careful, and disciplined.

Expressing concern over Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, Mr Gandhi said that it is dangerous not only for the security of this region but also for the world security. He said Islamabad's nuclear program is not built on its own indigenous technology or know-how but on the technology pilfered or stolen from Western countries. These Western countries talk about nuclear nonproliferation and insist on signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a precondition to their economic aid. Referring to the recent reports of stealing and smuggling of special type of steel by Pakistan for its nuclear program, the prime minister asked what has the United States been doing about it.

The prime minister said that despite denials by India and China relating to the tension on the Sino-Indian border, rumors are being set afloat and propaganda carried out. These things and the happenings around us only indicate that there is a design by outside powers.

'Pandemonium' Leds to Adjournment of Parliament

BK280921 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Both houses of parliament adjourned till lunchtime today after prolonged uproarious scenes. Soon after the houses assembled at 1100 this morning, opposition members were on their feet to press their motions relating to the Bofors gun deal.

In the Lok Sabha, several opposition members insisted that the question hour be suspended and their adjournment motion taken up immediately for discussion. The ruling party members put up vociferous resistance and demanded a discussion on the alleged CIA involvement. Noisy exchanges between the two sides followed. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said he would not admit

the adjournment motion but did not rule out a discussion on the subject. As noisy scenes continued for more than half an hour, Mr Jakhar announced that he has allowed Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, to move his motion for suspending question hour.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, wanted the house to take up immediately a government motion for appointment of a joint parliamentary committee on the issues connected with Bofors gun deal. This was resented by the opposition who wanted the adjournment motion to be taken up. When the motion for suspending the question hour moved by Mr Dandavate was adopted, the speaker asked the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, to move the government motion. At this stage, pandemonium broke out and several opposition members rushed to the well of the house. The speaker then adjourned the house.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed noisy scenes for more than 50 minutes this morning. Several opposition members demanded that the question hour be suspended to take up their notice of breach of privilege against the prime minister for allegedly misleading the house in the Bofors gun deal. This brought several ruling party members on their feet and pandemonium prevailed. Amidst noise and din, several opposition members contended that an extraordinary situation has risen and the chair should suspend the question hour. The ruling party members raised several points of order and asserted that there was no breach of privilege and the prime minister had not misled the house.

The deputy chairman, Mrs Pratibha Patil, in her ruling rejected the opposition demand and called for taking up the question hour. Amidst continuing noisy scenes, the environment minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, replied to the first question listed for the day, but nothing could be heard in the din. The opposition went on pressing their demand of taking up of their privilege notice immediately when the question hour was over. The chair then wanted to proceed with normal business. The opposition members, however, did not relent. Many of them came to the well of the house. The deputy chairman then adjourned the house till 1300.

Alleged Bofors' Agent Sought in Investigation

BK260925 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] India has told all its diplomatic missions abroad to ask local authorities to send back Mr Bhim Chaddha, an alleged agent of the Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors, if they get any information about his presence. The government has revoked the passports of Mr Chaddha and his son, Mr Harsh Chaddha, who are required in India in connection with certain investigation by the enforcement directorate.

Gandhi Affirms Pakistan Has Nuclear Facilities

BK251601 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that the massive arms aid being given to Pakistan is meant to shift India's attention from its anti-poverty programs. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing today a gathering of Congress-I workers from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. He said the aim is to push India into the arms race and divert its limited resources from development programs to arms.

He said it is strange that the United States is ready to change its laws to help Pakistan knowing fully well that Islamabad is making feverish attempts to manufacture the atomic bomb.

He said Pakistan has nuclear facilities at five or six places. The U.S. should insist on inspection of all these units instead of the unit at Kahuta only.

Commentary Reports U.S. Destabilization Campaign

BK251236 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1010 GMT 25 Jul 87

[R. Rangarajan commentary]

[Text] When the Soviet Communist Party general secretary, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, visited India late last year, he faced a volley of questions from newsmen whether their efforts to improve relations with China would adversely affect the on-going Sino-India dialogue to settle the border dispute. Mr Gorbachev's reply was a firm negative. On the other hand, he argued that it would be a beneficial impact on India-China relations. The border dispute, he said, would require patient negotiations and should be settled in mutual interest and taking the realities into account.

The events since then have borne out as expectation and perception. In their bid to better their ties with China, the Soviets have not sacrificed any of India's interests. Nor has Mr Gorbachev's vision of building an Asia-Pacific zone made them underplay India's own security concern or the security environment of the subcontinent. However, for the past few months, India is witnessing a strange spectacle of the U.S. State Department and the Western press magnifying the border differences with China and spinning out exaggerated reports about army concentration by the Chinese across the border and of clashes and casualties. If the U.S.A. had really noticed such developments, it was a matter of giving a diplomatic alert and not going to town, as it were. One wonders if these attempts are put as a spoke in the wheel and for what purpose one can hardly guess.

It is to be noted that both India and China have stoutly denied these reports and have reaffirmed their desire to find a peaceful solution of the problem. Reports of concentration of missiles across the border by the Chinese and of their active help to separatist movements in Assam and other parts of the northeast have also been denied.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi himself on Thursday [23 July] criticized the Western powers for trying to create a rift between India and China by fueling such reports. He pointed out how American arms supply to Pakistan both in quantity and striking power had been on a much higher scale in the last 2 years. This was because of India's firm and independent foreign policy initiatives and decisions. Why should the same powers try to create difficulties in the eastern front also, he seemed to wonder. He made it clear that India wanted to settle the dispute with

China through peaceful means, unprovoked by these reports and maneuvers.

Critics are not wanting who find fault with several aspects of the country's foreign policy. But on the Chinese front, there can be no two opinions about the shrewdness, tact, and statesmanship shown by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Without weakening ties with the Soviet Union or the United States, he has managed to recapture the initiative to improving bilateral relations. The visits, though brief, of Defense Minister K.C. Pant and External Affairs Minister N.D. Tiwari to Beijing have led to a thaw in the foreign relations after the last round of border talks. The mist of misgivings in the Chinese minds has been dispelled and the suspense over the next round has also ended.

The talks are to be held within the next few months in Delhi. The Chinese do not wish to heat up the region for any narrow gains and have assured that they would in no way interfere in internal affairs of India to weaken its unity and integrity. Both China and India have to be on guard about Western diplomacy in the Asian region.

Following Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States in June 1985, the Reagan administration had entertained high hopes of a significant shift in India's foreign policy. There are reasons for such an assumption and Mr Gandhi has not deviated a bit from the policy pursued by Pandit Nehru and Mrs Indira Gandhi. If anything, its anti-imperialist and antiracist thrust has become sharper. India is the most forceful advocate of Namibian independence and for ending racism in South Africa and for protecting the Frontline states from its wanton aggression.

The Reagan administration is naturally sour with India, and so one should not be surprised if some circles in the U.S.A. try to sow dissension between India and China to keep this country on tenterhooks in the eastern belt also.

Likewise, they would be none too happy with the progress in the Sino-Soviet relations and restoration of their friendship of the 50's. In fact, it is known that the progress had been over a wide area between China and the USSR, like economic and cultural cooperation and even in the dispute over a 5,000-mile common border. They are stuck on the relationship between the two countries at the party level. The Soviets are a superpower and there is also an additional binding factor like a common ideology between China and the USSR. For these reasons the Chinese may be more accomodative and resilient toward the USSR than India.

But we should not forget that India, too, is a factor to reckon with because of its size, population, and the industrial and defense strength built up over the 20 years.

India should have the confidence and faith that it would pull off a reasonable settlement with China on the border dispute. It should persevere in its policy of patient negotiations.

A salutary effect of a border settlement would be insulating this vast region from imperialist intrigues and the forces of neocolonialism apart from heightened bilateral relations. The togetherness of India and China would end forever imperialist intrigue and intervention in Asia.

State Minister Singh on Chinese Intrusion in North

BK281038 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] The Upper House was informed that China has improvised a helipad in Wangdung in Sumdorong Chu Valley of Tawang District in the eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in a written reply that the issue of Chinese intrusion in Wangdung has been taken up with Beijing and a strong protest lodged. He said India strives for a peaceful settlement of the boundary question with China and to resolve disputes through peaceful negotiations.

Delhi Confirmed as Site for Next Talks With PRC

BK280918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] The eighth round of official level talks between India and China is to be held in New Delhi. The dates have not yet been finalized.

Giving this information in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, also said that India welcomes the agreement between Britain and China on the future of Hong Kong. He said that there are about 20,000 people of Indian origin in Hong Kong. Of them, about 15,000 are Indian passport holders.

The minister said Britain should ensure that the British citizens of Indian origin are not rendered stateless after China resumes sovereignty over the island.

'Martyrdom' Maneuvers To Take Place 'Shortly'

LD271748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Central News Unit report: The central headquarters of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that in the wake of the enthusiastic response by the antiblasphemous Mobilization combatants and their wide-scale participation in the dispatch of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf, the great "Martyrdom" naval maneuvers will shortly take place in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz.

The maneuvers, in which the most sophisticated facilities will be deployed, seek to enhance the naval combat readiness of the Islamic Corps in order to safeguard the revolution and the Islamic homeland.

The Prophet Noah Base, the advance base of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, will carry out the final stage of readiness for the maneuvers.

Commentary on Maneuvers

LD272058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1530 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Political commentary: "Martyrdom Maneuvers and a Show of Strength"]

[Text] The combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' naval force, composed of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf, will soon begin the great naval "Martyrdom" maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz in order to demonstrate their power and strength, which comes from their faith, against possible attacks. These maneuvers will be held to enhance combat readiness in the Persian Gulf region and to confront aggressors in the event of any action or operation.

In a seminar held in Chalus to explain the naval "Martyrdom" maneuvers, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' naval force said: These maneuvers will be the first demonstration of the Corps' naval strength since his holiness' decree establishing the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He added: The most advanced development in weaponry and combat capability of the Corps' naval forces will be displayed in these maneuvers.

One of the commanders spoke about the role of the Mobilization of the Oppressed in a naval war against the enemies of Islam. He said: Just as the self-sacrificing Mobilization forces play a fundamental role in the land battle against the Ba'thist enemy, the martyrdom-seeking Mobilization forces will play a major role in the Gulf war. This seminar was held on the premises of the Faculty of Naval Sciences of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Chalus with the participation of commanders from the mobilization headquarters and resistance centers in various districts. Future plans and projects of the Guards Corps' naval forces and methods for recruitment for naval training centers were discussed in four separate committees.

The decision to hold these maneuvers was made when world arrogance, led by the United States, intensified its aggression in the region, especially in the Persian Gulf, in order to confront the victories of the Islamic fighters and the tumultuous growth of the Islamic revolution. The White House's disappointment over the attack on the *USS Stark* and the damage to the huge Kuwaiti supertanker while under U.S. escort has created many new difficulties for the White House and for Reagan.

Washington's hasty actions in the Persian Gulf have also produced a negative reaction in the United States. The mass media there have not yet been able to control the feeling of anxiety which has been generated by the mine which hit the Kuwaiti tanker. Some U.S. newspapers have even described the U.S. support for Kuwait -- the main supporter of Iraq in its 7-year-old war against Iran -- as provocative White House actions. Moreover, the media has not rejected the possibility of retaliatory actions by Iran.

The holding of the "Martyrdom" maneuvers in the Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz is a reminder of a fundamental point: The Persian Gulf does not enjoy Grenada's mild climate for U.S. Marines to have a few hours of recreation there.

Khamene'i Interviewed on Kuwaiti Support for Iraq

LD271934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The 10th session of the Supreme War Support Council was held this morning under the chairmanship of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. At the end of this meeting, our correspondent interviewed Mr Khamene'i, who spoke about the issues raised during the meeting.

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, the Supreme War Support Council meets in order to speed up the work undertaken by war support headquarters throughout the country and to remove some legal difficulties or some of the red tape impeding the efforts of these headquarters. A number of important issues were discussed in this meeting. One was the new plan of the Guards Corps, known as the Second Plan Toward Karbala'.

According to this plan, particular stress is placed on the fact that all support headquarters will train and recruit forces, which will then be activated. The Guards Corps presented a set of regulations and ideas that have been approved and will be sent to all support headquarters and recruiting organizations. These regulations will be sent out in order to attract volunteer forces, honorary guards [pasdaran-e eftekhari], and official guards, and to provide all necessary training assistance. It was even decided that another seminar should be held, called the seminar of "Here We Come, O Imam" [Labbayk ya Imam]. Two helpful and effective seminars have already been held under this title. The third seminar will be convened toward the end of the month of Dhi-Hajjah [the lunar month from 28 July to 25 August 1987], God willing.

Another important issue discussed was a plan to look after the families of married conscripts who have a large number of dependents. As you know, the Support Council has a plan to provide free assistance to such families. However, because this assistance is not enough, a plan in the form of loans was also discussed. It was decided that the Central Bank should allocate certain funds to be used as loans to those families.

In order to propagate the culture of jihad and war throughout the country, all possible and necessary means should be used by making use of very fundamental topics. [sentence as heard] All organizations that can propagate this culture throughout society should give the necessary assistance. Approval was given to form a committee from relevant organizations to set policies for this task.

Another issue involved people volunteering their vehicles for war service, whether heavy or semi-heavy vehicles. They can transport supplies to the fronts for the Armed Forces, the Corps, or the Construction Crusade. Even mosques, resistance headquarters, popular gatherings, and so forth can participate. Sometimes these vehicles are damaged at the fronts and are hit by bullets, and so forth. A plan was proposed to compensate for this damage; it requires the approval of this Council. The plan was approved.

There were two or three other cases which concern government organizations. There have been some queries about central headquarters being in charge of war support. These queries are mostly about ministers who are active at the provincial headquarters level and whose officials are active in the provinces. Their ministers in Tehran will meet at the central headquarters, make decisions, and will resolve the issues in dispute. The minister in Tehran made some requests which were also discussed and decided upon.

On the whole, it was a very useful session and many important issues were raised. Thanks be to God, we achieved good results. [end recording]

Referring to the volunteer popular forces -- the backbone of our defensive forces -- Mr Khamene'i said: From the beginning of the war, we relied mainly on the popular forces and on the determination and resolve of our people. Of course, the Armed Forces, the Corps, and the relevant forces have made great efforts and performed valuable activities during the war. Nevertheless, the true strength lies in the presence of the people at the fronts and behind the lines. In fact, this is the depth of the strategy at the fronts. Without the presence of our people and their faith, our fronts would not be so strong. Our rivals and enemies lack this source of strength.

When this force goes to sea, it is natural that the war in the Gulf will assume another form. At sea, we will fight not just with warships and missiles. We will reveal our powerful presence with volunteer popular forces and with their deep and sincere faith. This will determine the final equation in the region and in the Persian Gulf. Naturally, these issues will influence the policies of the powers that want to be involved in the Gulf.

Regarding the Islamic Republic's reaction to the superpowers' presence in the Persian Gulf, Mr Khamene'i asserted: We will not limit ourselves. We will do whatever is necessary and respond appropriately to each event. This is why we have not initiated [attacks] in the Persian Gulf, and we will not do so. We defend and retaliate. If the evil acts of Iraq and its supporters in the region or outside it are stopped, then we will also stop and will not resort to any military activity. However, if they continue their evil acts, their incitements, then we will retaliate and defend ourselves. At that point, we will have a far-reaching [mabsut] scope in sight. We will resort to any action in the Persian Gulf, for our capabilities are numerous and diverse. Our enemies cannot even imagine some of our capabilities. They have some vague notion, but they cannot clearly foresee what we will do.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Khamene'i said: Up to this point, the country that has clearly supported and helped Iraq, that has fully supported Iraq in its evil acts, and that has enabled Iraq to continue its acts of mischief is the Government of Kuwait. At the moment, we know of no other country that has so clearly supported Iraq and placed facilities at its disposal. This is how the situation stands today. Even those who assisted Iraq in the past deny it today. Therefore, the target of this invasion will be Kuwait [benabarin hadaf-e in tahajom Kuwait khahad bud].

As Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has announced in the Friday prayers, if our oil installations in the Persian Gulf are attacked, then we will retaliate. We support this stand. What has aroused our sensitivity up to this point is the tanker attacks. Now, attacks on our installations in the Persian Gulf will arouse the same sensitivity. Therefore, we shall retaliate in kind [moqabelah bemesl].

Threatens To Attack Kuwait

LD272015 Tehran in English to Europe 1943 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, pointed out to the Kuwaiti regime's open and avowed support of the Iraqi aggressor regime during the imposed war and (?noted) that should Kuwait's shenanigans continue, economic powers of that country will be brought under missile attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to our correspondent at the conclusion of the Supreme Council of War Support's session today, he added that: In our retaliatory policy, we will use surface-to-surface missiles and all our facilties. Further, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council expounded the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy in countering the military presence of the world imperialism in the Persian Gulf [words indistinct] and provocations of its [words indistinct] continues in the Persian Gulf, we will give the proper response and defend ourselves, and in that case we will consider a wide and extensive course of action.

The president referred to the presence of the volunteer, popular forces and [words indistinct] in the Persian Gulf, expressing that we will demonstrate our strong presence in the Persian Gulf by our profound faith and popular forces and this is what [is] determining the main regional and war equation in the Persian Gulf.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added the war and [words indistinct] will not be merely restricted to [words indistinct] missile and interfering forces in the Persian Gulf; that if they act rational this fact will severely have much effect on their imagination and policymaking.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Gulf, United Nations, France
NC270607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0447 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Dear listeners, as we announced during our newscast, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [majlis] and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent last night. He answered questions on the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, the Security Council resolution, the break in dilomatic ties with France, and the useless activities of the Zionist Iraqi regime in the region. We end our newscast by broadcasting the text of this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear listeners. During the past couple of weeks, issues concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought up, including the recent disgraceful defeat of the United States in the Persian Gulf, the passage of a Security Council resolution on the war imposed by the Zionist Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic, and the break in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France. We are now with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected representative of the imam on the Supreme Defense Council. I have asked him to answer questions on these topics.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, before answering questions on these issues, can you please state what you discussed with the commanders of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters at today's meeting?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The meeting at the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters was held in order to study our situation in the Persian Gulf following the disgrace suffered by the engineers of the plan to escort vessels, as well as to study what the situation in the Persian Gulf is in relation to this. In effect, we discussed any future steps by the United States and what our response should be. We held a 5-hour discussion of the situation, studying it thoroughly, and we reached some good conclusions. We hope that they will have a worthwhile effect in the future.

[Correspondent] In your Friday prayers in Tehran, you spoke about the new policy of retaliation. Can you please explain this further?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, the new policy will take us one step further than in the past. Previously, when Iraq attacked one of our ships in the Persian Gulf or our installations in the Persian Gulf, we merely retaliated by attacking ships that were headed for Kuwaiti ports. We now have a new policy because Kuwait committed an evil act by drawing the superpowers into the region. We abandoned our past principle; that is, the principle of not attacking the installations of Iraq's partners in retaliation for the attacks on our installations in the Persian Gulf. Instead, we decided to adopt a policy of retaliation similar to the mischiefs perpetrated by Iraq. If oil tankers are hit, we will retaliate against tankers. If oil terminals and oil wells are hit, we will retaliate in the same way. Of course, the world cited us as saying that whenever Iraq attacks our installations, we will attack the installations of Iraq's partners. Actually, we said that we would attack at sea because we believe that there should be security in the Persian Gulf, that the war will possibly spread, that the war may be internationalized, and that there are special international problems there. This is how we will answer Iraq's mischiefs in the Persian Gulf. On land, the war is taking its course. If Iraq attacks our ground forces or our installations, we will hit Iraq's installations. This is our policy of retaliation for the Persian Gulf, the Persian Gulf coastal areas, Persian Gulf ports, Persian Gulf oil installations, and ships in the Persian Gulf. We will accurately implement this policy from now on.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, does the Islamic Republic of Iran foresee the United States continuing to escort Kuwaiti ships in view of its recent defeat in the Persian Gulf?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This issue is not very clear. There are reasons for us to say no, this will not be repeated. However, there are also reasons for us to believe that it may continue. One reason involves the issue of trust. No one would trust the United States if that proud superpower -- whose name must have warmed the hearts of its backers and servants in the region and whose prestige is very important here -- is expelled from the scene with the first blow. Before the implementation of the escort plan, opposition voices in Washington had said that this would be a repetition of the incident in Lebanon -- from where the United States fled after it suffered an initial blow. It departed and abandoned its friends. Therefore, it appears that U.S. pride and goals make retreat difficult, even though that country is willing to pay a high price. These haughty gentlemen must expiate for this haughtiness. We believe that it is highly possible that the United States will attempt to escort Kuwaiti tankers once or twice more.

Meanwhile, the reports submitted on this escort by the navies of the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps and by the Armed Forces, as well as statements by the Americans themselves during the past couple of days, by their correspondents, Navy officers, high-ranking commanders, and politicians, show that the United States is facing a serious problem. I will give some examples. First of all, they were extremely terrified during this operation. As they proceeded along this route, the U.S. escort was not like a military force in full control of the situation. For example, at one point the convoy came across a small boat that had been abandoned at sea. Fearing that this boat might attempt a suicide act, the convoy started a commotion and finally changed course. Only later did the Americans realize that there was no one in the boat.

Another example is that when they approached our centers, including Bandar-e 'Abbas, Larak Island, Abu Musa, and Farsi, they displayed much terror and maintained radio silence. Our men who were controlling the convoy were surprised at how a military force could be so terrified of its mission. A further example of their fear, which has been stated previously, is shown by the fact that the Americans fired flares at one of their own helicopters which was approaching the convoy. When the personnel aboard the vessels heard the explosion of a mine that struck one of the tankers, they completely lost control. There are many

such cases that clearly show how extraordinarily terrified they were.

There were some vulnerable points in the movement of the convoy that also displayed the extraordinary military weakness of the Americans. I will state only a few of the many examples. For instance, it became apparent that they do not have a minesweeper in the area. So far, no one has said anything about the fact that the United States is facing a shortage of minesweepers. This shortage is so severe that that country could not deploy any of these ships for such an important mission, even though it was known that there would be mines along the route of the convoy. Their commander said that they have three minesweepers in their entire Navy and that they are engaged elsewhere. This is a source of great degradation for the United States.

Another point that showed their weakness was that the radar on their ships apparently cannot scan their surroundings. We assumed that they would see a bird flying over their ships. However, they were not aware that our boats had come within 3 or 4 km of the U.S. ships in some cases along the route and as they approached our bases. If the Americans had been aware of the proximity of our boats,they would have reacted and either fired on us or warned us. In other words, we truly believed they could use the sea according to their wishes. However, we saw that this is not the case. In fact, our boats can approach their vessels without the Americans even realizing it.

Another weak point was the absence of air cover during the night. Naturally, if someone wanted to attack the convoy, they would not confine themselves to daylight. It is very easy to launch attacks at night using helicopters and other means.

Another deficiency exhibited by the convoy was its lack of adequate means to identify mines. Not having a minesweeper is one thing; lacking the means to detect mines is another. We believed that they had the wherewithal to identify mines below the surface, either by sonar or other means that everyone knows they possess. However, they were unable to detect a mine only a few feet away.

Their own officers admitted that it was lucky that the tanker was in front of them because there would have been a calamity if the mine had struck their warship. Of course, from a military-political point of view and as far as military information is concerned, these officers were foolish to express such views. In our country, for example, officers do not and are not allowed to utter such things. No officer should reveal a point of weakness, even though they are correct. The ship that was struck by the mine is very big, with a 400,000-ton capacity, while the ships in the U.S. flotilla have a capacity of only a few thousand tons — between 4,000 to 5,000 tons — and are small. The crew of the ship that was struck has about 20 men, while the crews of the U.S. warships number between 400-500 soldiers. These warships also carry explosives, large quantities of bullets and missiles, and highly flammable substances that could blow up and destroy the vessels. In other words, a point had been reached in which the U.S. warships were moving under the protection of the tanker. This is a joke and a historic anecdote — they came to guard the tanker, but in the end they used the tanker as protection against any mines. They themselves acknowledged that in such contaminated areas, they are the ones needing protection, not the tankers. A tanker is a gigantic ship. Despite the mine that exploded, which destroyed 4 of 30 compartments, the tanker continued on its course -- as is the case with other tankers that are hit by missiles but continue their route. They are big. On the other hand, the [U.S.] ships are very vulnerable.

On the whole, they have many weak points. Some people said that the Persian Gulf's hot and humid weather would keep the morale of the U.S. soldiers low. The heat here is 50 degrees centigrade and very humid. They cannot tolerate it. These soldiers must escort two tankers for 1,000 km — from Khawr Faqqan to Kuwait — and then return an additional 1,000 km. They are vulnerable along this entire route. They are not well acquainted with the Persian Gulf waters. Of course, they have maps, but they lack the appropriate training. If they want to study it for some time, their officers can learn, but it is now difficult for them. Anyone who wants to plant a mine anywhere along their route can do so. We do not have to be the ones to plant mines. Anyone who wants to disrupt the situation in the region can plant a mine there. The Russians, who are here, can do so. The ships of the various countries using the route can, if they want to, plant mines along the routes that they [the Americans] are using. Generally speaking, their vulnerability is not limited to the area where they struck the mine; they are vulnerable along the entire 900 km or more route.

Therefore, the convoy has many weak points, and these weaknesses are in addition to the political weaknesses on the U.S. domestic front. Examples can be seen in the current situation in Congress and in the press, as well as in the problems with the rivals of the White House and those who foresaw and warned of the problems and who now see their forecasts becoming reality. There are other dangers threatening them as well which have strengthened the position of the opponents to this action. The U.S. allies have also stated their opposition. Therefore, we think that it is impossible for the United States to plan to continue. Even if it attempts to escort once or twice more, it will not be doing so in the very near future because it will be involved with sorting things out with Kuwait for a few more days. They should think of what to do with the ship. They do not yet know if they should load it or not. They have recently stated that they will be facing even more danger on their way back. They are right, because empty ships do not displace very much water and mines are usually lower than the level they reach; that is, 3 or 4 meters under the water. On the return trip, the ships will be full and will displace more water, and the danger of colliding with a mine will increase. They say that they should load the ship halfway. They are lucky that the large Kuwaiti ship cannot be fully loaded now. They can load it up to 60 or 70 percent and then return — if they can return. The entire act appears extremely foolish and fruitless.

America's weakness has been revealed to itself and to its friends. We are not making empty threats. The danger here is serious. This is why we say that they may possibly not want to continue, but their pride may force them to repeat it one more time.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during your Friday prayers, you outlined the policy of the Islamic Republic on the recent Security Council resolution. However, there is one question here. In view of the Islamic Republic's rejection of that

resolution -- which stipulates the imposition of a future arms embargo against those countries that do not accept (?the resolution) -- do you believe this will cause Iran any concern?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Not at all! Actually, we have been facing a boycott since the revolution. Most of our weapons are of Western manufacture. However, the West has not supplied us with spare parts, let alone arms. We are used to this kind of a situation. We are now manufacturing a major part of our arms needs. Moreover, we can purchase the quantity that we need [from abroad] because, as they say, there is a hole in the pockets of the West. We can buy arms from whatever source we want. The world's arms market is such that no one can control it, as they have been unable to do for the past 7 years. Sometimes we pay more, sometimes less. Moreover, there are some countries that do not listen to the United Nations. The financial needs of many countries force them to sell arms to us. Some countries would be forced to close down their factories if they did not sell their arms. There are some countries who consider the foreign exchange generated by arms sales to us as the elixir of life. The need for them to sell to us is greater than our need to purchase the arms. I do not believe that this [decision] is realistic. Moreover, I do not believe that Iran will be in a difficult position even if that decision were to be implemented on an international level. We can continue to fight forever on the level that we are fighting.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the process of normalizing Iranian-French relations has broken down because of France's refusal to abide by international laws and regulations. The French foreign minister has stated that Iran is in the driver's seat with regard to the French hostages and intends to exploit this situation. Can you please comment on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] (?It would have been better) [words indistinct]. We believe that the reason for France's blackmail was their belief that if they arrested one of our representatives, we would be forced to intercede [on behalf of the French hostages in Lebanon]. They believe that forceful intercession is possible. We have stated that the Hizballah of Lebanon and the Muslims of Lebanon sometimes listen to us. However, we are not, as they stated, in the driver's seat and they are aware of this, too. They know that we have influence in Lebanon and can do something. They tried blackmail and the violation of international laws, imagining that these incidents would compel Iran to act. However, they saw that nothing happened. We compiled a serious case here against one of the French representatives. When the opportunity arose, we opened the dossier. Of course, there are similar (?cases against some others) [words indistinct] some stronger, some weaker. However, because this case was more suitable and almost like the case against our representative in their country, we chose this one.

It is possible that initially the French did not think this would happen. In our opinion, it was not the Foreign Ministry or Mr Chirac's group that perpetrated this act, but those who wanted to upset the policy of the ruling party. However, they were disgraced before the French nation. Actually, all those who ignore France's national interests because of domestic conflicts are disgraced -- hence, their attempt to cover this up. In reality, all this was started by a faction in France, and the ruling party was drawn into it. Now they are seeking an escape. We do not want everything to stop. Our policy is what our foreign minister stated. The situation now is such that either both accused persons in both countries will go to court and the issue will be resolved, or neither will go to court, and the situation will be resolved. However, we have nothing to say if the situation is not resolved. Of course, we do not oppose the half-baked relations that we had with France on that level, but we know and must say that as long as France continues its malicious policies against us in the three cases that we stated -- in its support for Iraq, its cooperation with the Iranian terrorists there, and its plundering and roughneck policy on our properties -- our relations cannot be sincere. There is no reason for us to help them in Lebanon, nor do we have any responsibility to do so. We will help when a friend is involved, in that case we can help. However, if the situation continues as it is, it will not make a great difference to us.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, my last question is about the (?recent) provocation on the fronts by Iraq's Zionist regime. If I am not mistaken, last year at this time Iraq attempted some assaults on Iran, but retreated after suffering a great disgrace. This year, too, they started such assaults. Just today we heard reports that the fighters of Islam successfully thwarted five assaults by the Zionist forces. Can you please discuss the reason for this and why the Iraqi regime attempts this, in view of the fact that it did the same thing last year on the same day and, as I said, suffered a defeat?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Iraq needs these acts. I do not know if you were ever in the Army or if you understand the military. Sometimes it happens that a particular armed force comes under constant attack and must defend itself and retreat with each defensive. Iraq has been confronted with such a situation since the same period last year when we commenced our attacks against Iraqi formations in Mehran. We are constantly attacking through the "Fath," "Nasr," and "Karbala'" operations and forcing Iraq to retreat. As a result, morale among the Iraqi Armed Forces has deteriorated. In an attempt to boost the morale of the nation and of the military personnel, the government has assigned them suicidal missions. They carried out an operation in Al-Faw and, according to the news, they executed those responsible for the unsuccessful attack. Moreover, the Iraqis have been incurring heavy casualties in Sumar for 2 weeks now, but they insist on prolonging the fighting. This has been the case in Maymak, where they have suffered truly major casualties over the past few days. They carried out acts in the western front that were [words indistinct]. On the whole, I believe that this is a better situation for us, otherwise, we would be forced to attack them in their positions. Of course, this situation entails great dangers because of the increasing number of casualties the Iraqis are incurring as they leave their positions. We believe that this is not well-grounded. [sentence as heard]

To a certain extent, this particular stage also has a political aspect at a time when the United Nations, the Security Council, and U.S. presence in the region are the issues. It is important for Iraq to carry out some activities, but it is so weak that it is disgracing itself just as the movement of the American convoy is [disgracing the United States].

[Correspondent] Thank you for sparing a few minutes of your valuable time.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I pray to God for the success of our combatants.

[Correspondent] God willing. [end recording]

Comment on GCC Support for Kuwait Tanker Decision

LD271409 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Station commentary: "The GCC's Support for Kuwait's Decision"]

[Text] While U.S. Naval ships weighed anchor on Kuwaiti shores yesterday [as heard], the GCC foreign ministers declared their support for the decision of the shaykhdom of Kuwait to protect its oil tanker fleet. During their 1-day session in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the Sultanate of Oman declared their support for the recent UN Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war.

Nevertheless, in their final statement the GCC foreign ministers refrained from directly referring to U.S. military protection for Kuwaiti ships. In the opinion of a political source, this lack of direct reference must be considered in view of the council's past position. To date, the GCC has always declared that the security of free shipping in the Persian Gulf must be maintained by littoral states alone. It is interesting to note that one of the principal protagonists of this view was the Kuwaiti Government. But now, considering the request made by the shaykhdom of Kuwait — or, in other words, the implementation of Washington's new strategy, which is a direct military presence alongside the war fronts — it seems natural for the GCC member states, who all enjoy U.S. political and military protection, to agree to Kuwait's request.

Meanwhile, informed political circles in the region believe that Iran's new strategy in the Persian Gulf has cast a shadow over yesterday's GCC foreign ministers' session. The new strategy is based on this principle: If Iraq attacks our country's oil installations in the Persian Gulf, the oil installations of Iraq and its partners in the region will not be safe from the Islamic combatants' retaliatory attacks. In one news agency's opinion, so far Tehran's policy has been that it should prevent the imposed war from spreading to the countries of the region. Although this policy still stands, in consideration of the new conditions in the region, and especially of the presence of the Western powers' fleets, certain adjustments should be made to this policy.

There is no doubt today that to attack our country's oil installations, which are far from our common borders, the Iraqi regime has enjoyed the military cooperation of its partners in the region. By making available their coastal airspace and even sending tanker aircraft for midair refueling, they are giving special military assistance to the Iraqi regime.

Since the outbreak of the imposed war, the Iraqi regime has constantly enjoyed financial, military, political, and propaganda assistance from the shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf region. This support, which accords with U.S. policies, now seems inadequate to Washington. By politically supporting Kuwait's decision, the GCC has supported the U.S. hegemonistic policy. In addition, as Saudi Arabia has sent minesweepers and intensified AWACS activities, it has militarily entered the new U.S. plan. [sentence as heard]

The support of the six GCC member states for Kuwait's request, their lack of direct reference to the U.S. ships' protection of the Kuwaiti fleet, and their lack of reference to the new policy declared by our country makes one feel that the GCC is trying to keep its distance from the dangerous consequences of the crisis in the Persian Gulf by adopting a moderate policy. But when one considers the actions of some council members in giving political-military support to the West's hegemonistic plan in the Persian Gulf, continuing this course will lead them to become increasingly involved in the imposed war. This is regarded as one of the main factors contributing to the extension of the war.

Pakistan To Protect State's Interests in France

LD271747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that, following the break in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France, and in accordance with discussions and agreements, the Pakistani Government will protect Iran's interests in France. The Italian Government will do the same for France in Iran.

Velayati Claims Gorji Has 'Diplomatic Immunity'

AU281343 Paris AFP in English 1336 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 28 (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati insisted here on Tuesday that an Iranian interpreter who France wants to question in connection with terrorist bombings in Paris, benefited from diplomatic immunity.

"Vahid Gorji has a service passport and is protected by article 37 of the Vienna Convention," Mr. Velayati told a press conference here. France has never accepted that Mr. Gorji has diplomatic immunity.

Paris and Teheran broke off diplomatic relations on July 17 as the culmination of three weeks of tension sparked by Mr. Gorji's refusal to appear before the examining magistrate.

Iran has in turn accused Paul Torri, First Secretary at the French Embassy in Tehran, of spying and smuggling charges and ordered him to appear before an Islamic court.

Mr. Velayati argued here that Mr. Gorji was a member of the embassy staff in charge of consular affairs, but since he was not a "political expert," he did not officially rank as a diplomat. "We have told the French about this fact, but we have received no response," the foreign minister said. "We are ready to enter in a legal and political debate on this issue," he went on.

Repeating a statement made yesterday by Iranian Parliamentary Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr. Velayati said, "To

get out of the impasse, the diplomats in both countries should both be tried or not be tried at all."

Comments on France, FRG, U.S.
NC280650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Report on telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently in Geneva to attend the UNCTAD and disarmament conferences, with London-based correspondent from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date not given — recorded]

[Text] Following the French Government's decision to put the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* on alert, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in Geneva to attend the seventh UNCTAD session and the disarmament conference, maintained that France's endeavor is nothing more than a political-propaganda move. He stressed that everyone knows that the era of gunboats is over.

Mr Velayati, who was speaking to us via the telephone, added: In light of the U.S. inability, as a superpower, to do anything in the distant and sensitive Persian Gulf area because of the existence of a powerful Iran, French inability to do anything there will be even more pronounced. He added: France's move is more political than military and is being made to gain popularity within the country. I believe we will witness even more such moves in the future as the elections in France draw nearer.

In relation to the situation in the Persian Gulf, the foreign minister said: The U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf is more an element of tension than of security. The recent incidents, including Iraq's attack on the *Stark* and the collision of a Kuwaiti tanker with a mine, attest to this. He said: The world has now realized that the United States has been plunged into a swamp. Even though it has deployed its ships here with hopes of catching big fish, it is possible, nevertheless, for it to become bait for the Persian Gulf sharks.

Dr Velayati said: All of the recent incidents manifest the beginning of a U.S. political defeat in the area, the larger dimensions of which will become more evident in the future. He said: We believe the war should remain limited to Iran and Iraq. It also is wrong to link the area's destiny to Saddam's destiny. We will continue the war until its destiny is determined; that is, the downfall of the aggressive Baghdad regime.

Dr Velayati said: The United States should realize that if it creates any problem for the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will be confronting 1 billion Muslims throughout the world.

The foreign minister then commented on the FRG Government's recent stand which declared the Iraqi regime as the aggressor, and added: The Security Council has realized that it cannot make decisions without soliciting Iran's views or without taking realities into consideration.

We announced a long time ago that we will not participate in the Security Council's debates on the war, unless that body makes amends for the past and declares Iraq as the aggressor and condemns it.

Velayati in Geneva for UNCTAD, Red Cross Talks

For reportage on the activities of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in Geneva for UNCTAD and meetings of the International Committee of the Red Cross, see the International Affairs section of the 27 July West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Turkish Ambassador Delivers Ozal Message

NC280725 Tehran International Service in Turkish
1830 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] The Turkish ambassador in Tehran called on Mr Mo'ayeri, deputy prime minister for political affairs, this morning and conveyed Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's verbal message on regional developments. Recalling the agreements concluded between Turkey and Iran during Prime Minister Musavi's recent visit to Ankara, the Turkish ambassador noted the importance of continuing talks on regional developments that concern both countries. He said: Talks between the countries of the region will be very useful in the effort being made to prevent either superpower from intervening in the area.

On his part, Mo'ayeri thanked the ambassador for conveying Prime Minister Ozal's message. He stated: Iran, which has the longest coastline in the Persian Gulf, has always upheld peace and security in the region. However, we are convinced that the main source of the crisis is the Iraqi regime. Its attacks on commercial shipping has caused unrest in the region.

The latest UN Security Council resolution has further harmed that body's prestige in the international arena because it supports a U.S. attack against the Persian Gulf.

Mo'ayeri said that maintaining and developing Iranian-Turkish political and economic cooperation will serve the interests of the peoples in the region.

He expressed hope that relations between the two countries will be developed further.

Montazeri Meets With Police Officials in Qom

LD251748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani, the imam's representative in the police department, accompanied by National Police Chief Colonel Niknezhad, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom this afternoon.

He briefed the deputy leader on various national police projects, as well as on the activities of police personnel.

Death Toll in Khorasan Flood Rises to 138

LD251503 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 25 Jul 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 25, IRNA — The death toll of the flood which hit Bujan Village, some 12 kms north of the city of Neyshabur, northeastern Iran, Friday night rose to 138 today.

The flood occured when the Bujan River overflowed its banks following torrential rains in the region yesterday.

Several bodies are believed to have been buried in silt carried by the flood to a plain some four kms from the river course.

Relief operations are underway to recover bodies of other possible victims.

Eyewitnesses said that the flood was so strong that it overturned a truck with its load and washed it away along with other parked cars belonging to families picnicking around the river.

Nine more people were killed and 18 others injured in a flood which struck Zoshk village around this northeastern provincial capital last night.

So far, 18 cars washed away by the flood have been retrieved.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

'Fresh Successes' Reported

LD261742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 87

[Text] In its communique tonight, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces the following: Yesterday, following their successful operations in the western operational sectors, the proud Ground Forces destroyed three more helicopters belonging to the aggressor Iraqi regime in the Maymak operational sector and killed and wounded a large number of Saddamists.

A group of Saddamists was captured, including a senior officer. Thus, our Ground Forces were able to gain fresh successes, the details of which will be brought to the notice of our dear compatriots.

In the northwest and southern operational sectors, the combatants of Islam fired on the positions and fortifications of Iraqi forces, destroying 1 vehicle, 2 ammunition dumps, and several gun emplacements, and killing more than 10 enemy troops.

Iran's naval coastal artillery defense unit yesterday fired on the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platform and foiled Iraqi naval traffic in these maritime regions.

The Gendarmerie fighters, in continuing their operations yesterday, killed and wounded a number of Saddamists and destroyed about 10 enemy gun emplacements.

Iraqis Driven From Heights

LD271119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] According to reports from the Maymak operational region, in continued victorious operations today the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran cleansed the Martyrs Hill — the northwestern part and crest of the northwestern heights of the southern Maymak Heights — of the filth of the Zionist enemy.

During the operations, a battalion of the Iraqi 705th Brigade, five tanks, and a large number of vehicles and hardware belonging to the Zionist enemy were destroyed.

The brave pilots of the Airborn Ground Forces and the Iranian Air Force supporting the Islamic combatants inflicted casualties and damage on the enemy forces.

A large quantity of hardware was captured as booty by the Islamic combatants and is being catalogued.

At present, battles are raging in the west of Maymak. The Islamic forces are winning.

Iraqi Casualties Exceed 5,000

LD271816 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 27, IRNA — Some 78 Iraqi POW's taken prisoner in Maymak operational theatre by Muslim combatants of Iran over the past 24 hours were transferred behind the battlefronts as of Monday morning.

The POW's were captured in two Iraqi attempts to capture two key heights in Maymak over the past three nights. The attacking enemy forces comprised three tank and artillery battalions.

More than 5,000 Iraqi troops have so far been killed and wounded in Maymak over the past few days.

Communique No 2,910

LD271731 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily pounded Iraqi positions in Maymak in five sorties Sunday and Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the enemy.

All planes returned safely to bases after the operations, the 2910th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here today.

The communique said in Maymak operational region Iranian combatants demolished more Iraqi units Sunday destroying several tanks and light and heavy vehicles and killing or wounding more Iraqi troops.

A group of other Iraqi soldiers were also captured bringing the number of Iraqi POW's in the region to 87.

Artillery fire of Muslim forces over Iraqi supply routes in Maymak, Sumar, and Kani-Sheykh disrupted relocation activities and movements of Iraqi motorized columns, inficting some casualties on them.

An Iraqi infantry unit in Qasr-e Shirin came under artillery fire of the Iranian forces sustaining considerable casualties and losses. In Salehabad an Iraqi patrol unit was subjected to Iranian artillery fire which forced it to retreat from the area.

In the northwestern fronts two Iraqi munitions dumps, four heavy and light vehicles and parts of enemy perimeters were set afire by Iranian forces.

An enemy motorized column including tanks was hit by Iranian artillery fire in the southern fronts sustaining some casualties and losses, the communique said.

Iraqi Attack Repelled

LD280903 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Ilam, July 28, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants repelled an Iraqi attempt to capture their positions west of Mehran heights Monday night.

Forty Iraqi Ba'thists were killed and one was taken captive.

Moreover, several enemy individual bunkers as well as observation posts were destroyed.

Meanwhile, exchange of heavy artillery fire continued in Maymak and Sumar operational regions where 17 enemy forces were killed and 22 others wounded while 15 individual bunkers, two observation posts, one communication mast, three heavy vehicles and a command jeep were destroyed.

'Strong Protest' Lodged Over DRA Border Shelling

BK280218 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that the Afghan Armed Forces fired eight artillery rounds at (Girdai Bagh) in the Bajaur Agency on 16 July, killing five civilians and injuring two others. The Afghan Armed Forces also lobbed 12 shells into the (Qadkhai) area of the Bajaur Agency on the 21st of this month, killing one person and injuring three others. The Afgan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Press Note Issued on Kidnappings, Deaths in Kurram

BK280241 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] A press note issued in Peshawar says that many cases of kidnapping have been reported in the Kurram Agency over the last 2 months as a result of personal rivalry. Unfortunately, these incidents have become sectarian in nature, creating tension between the two sects. The press note adds that last Thursday [23 July] the village of Basha, located 6 km south of Parachinar, was besieged. An exchange of heavy shooting between the two sects ensued. Shooting incidents spread to many other villages in the Kurram Agency. Roadblocks were set up on the main Parachinar road, as well as other arteries.

Political authorities have sent a combined tribal delegation composed of prominent religious scholars to the area, and they have been able to stop the shooting in various places. Additional forces, including Army units, have been sent to control the situation and clear the roads. The press note says there are reports that 30 people have been killed and 60 others injured. A curfew is now in force in the town of Parachinar, and no further untoward incident has been reported there.

HAIDAR Demands Cancellation of U.S. Port Calls

BK261059 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu
18 July 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Why Should There Be Port Calls of U.S. Warships?"]

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that with the permission of Pakistan, U.S. Naval warships will make port calls at Karachi in the next few weeks. The spokesman explained that there is no connection between this plan and the current situation in the Persian Gulf. It is a routine procedure and will be conducted under the Pakistani-U.S. agreement that permits reciprocal port calls.

An announcement was also made last November that a U.S. Naval fleet would call at the port of Karachi for a few days. However, the call was canceled due to the disturbances in Karachi at that time. Four months later, three U.S. ships carrying nuclear missiles docked at this port for a week.

Now there has been another announcement that many more U.S. ships will anchor at Karachi within a few weeks. This announcement comes at a time when the situation in the Gulf has become extremely serious and the Reagan administration is directly involved in aggressive acts against our fraternal country, Iran. Therefore, we cannot accept the explanation of our Foreign Ministry spokesman that there is no connection between the proposed port call of the American ships and the situation in the Gulf. We strongly feel that these calls are a part of the U.S. war preparations against Iran. We also believe that the Reagan administration's policy to use the port of Karachi is an attempt to create tension in Pakistan-Iran relations. It is no secret that the United States has been trying for a long time to involve Pakistan in the Iran-Iraq war.

Despite all its shortcomings and weaknesses, we admit that our present government, until recently, has been shying away from getting involved in the American conspiracy against Iran. However, it is also true that U.S. pressure on Pakistan has been steadily increasing.If our authorities do not cancel the proposed port calls of U.S. ships this time, then it will definitely create the impression that --as in the Afghanistan dispute -- American pressure in the case of the Iran-Iraq war has been finally accepted. We demand that President Ziaul Haq withdraw the permission granted to American warships for port calls.

We make this demand directly to President Ziaul Haq in view of the well known fact that he favors a pro-U.S. foreign policy, as it is being administered now. We appeal to all patriotic Pakistanis in general, and to the talented citizens of Karachi in particular, to make a strong protest against the proposed port calls of U.S. ships. Moreover, they should clearly tell the United States that Pakistan will not become involved in the U.S. conspiracy against Iran.

Cabinet Ministers View Ethnic Accord With India

BK251449 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1425 GMT 25 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene has said that the agreement reached to solve the ethnic problem in the country will in no way affect Sri Lanka's unitary status, independence and democracy. There will be no Eelam and all should accept the national anthem and the lion flag, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin this evening.

He was addressing the Executive Committee meeting of the United National Party (UNP) at Sri Kotha Mandiraga, in Sri Jayawardanepura, Kotte, the capital city of Sri Lanka.

The accord ending the terrorist issue will be signed in Colombo next Wednesday. Before that the terrorists should surrender their weapons.

Before the end of next year a referendum will be held on the merger of the northern and eastern regions.

There is a possibility of many opposing this merger.

The president noted that violating this agreement is not possible because the Indian prime minister is signing it.

India will assist if terrorism raises its head again in Sri Lanka.

Elections to provincial councils will be held throughout the country before the end of the year.

The United National Party will contest all councils including those in the north and east.

The president will appoint governors to provincial councils.

The state of emergency in north and east will be ended.

According to the agreement, the president further said that the Israeli interest section in Sri Lanka will be closed.

He added that hereafter Sri Lankan soldiers will not be sent to Pakistan for military training.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali pointed out that with the signing of the agreement India will be bound by international law for its implementation. Therefore Indian and Sri Lankan naval forces will conduct joint patrols to ensure neither goods nor armed men are smuggled to the north.

Sri Lankan separatists will not be allowed to stay in India.

They will have to dismantle all military camps and information centres in India.

Citizens of Indian origin who were not able to leave for India will be provided an opportunity to do so under the Sirimashaltri pact.

Many think that the ethnic issue cannot be solved but Mr Athulathmudali added that the president [word indistinct] determination to somehow resolve this issue.

Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake said that an end to this crisis could be found if India extended support to Sri Lanka.

Both countries have agreed not only to resettle the Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil communities who have been living in the eastern region but also to consolidate their security. If we do not make the era of taking decisions in Colombo there will be others who will raise their heads as terrorists. Mr Dissanayake pointed out that we should not forget that every youth will resort to terrorism in the future.

Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel said that the light of peace is dawning after a dark period of four years. Countries providing aid to Sri Lanka had presented a proposal to halt the grant of foreign aid unless the war came to an end. Therefore every country had said that we should solve this problem with India. The money allocated for development activities will have to be further reduced by 20 percent if Sri Lanka had to spend more on defense activities. Although there was a doubt as to whether this accord could be implemented to the letter the finance minister noted that it was difficult to reach such a practical, reasonable agreement.

The deputy minister of posts and telecommunication Abdul Majeed said that the country was not being betrayed nor divided by the decision taken to resolve this crisis. What we need today was to consolidate peace. However he added that eliminating terrorism was more important.

[Colombo *Lanka Puwath* in English at 1022 GMT on 26 July transmits a service message correcting the above item as follows: "The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced today corrections to the Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene's speech broadcast on SLBC yesterday evening. The sentences 'closing down of Israeli interest section' and 'Sri Lanka soldiers will not be sent for training to Pakistan' to be deleted from the text of the speech."]

President, Prime Minister Discuss Peace Accord

BK271124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] The president and Mrs Jayewardene paid a courtesy call on the prime minister and Mrs Hema Premadasa at Temple Trees [prime minister's residence] yesterday. The prime minister and Mrs Premadasa returned to the island yesterday after an official tour of the United Kingdom and Japan. President Jayewardene explained the details of the draft peace accord to the prime minister, Mr Premadasa.

Mr Premadasa is reported to have made certain observations and comments regarding the proposal. The president agreed to consider these comments.

A special meeting of government ministers was due to be held today to discuss the new peace initiative. Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Bernard Tilakaratna flew in to Colombo from New Delhi last evening, bringing the latest perceptions from India. The Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, who has been in Delhi consulting his government, is expected to fly in to Colombo today. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was scheduled to meet LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran late last night.

All police stations countrywide were yesterday placed on maximum alert in preparation for Wednesday's visit here of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Inspector General of Police Cyril Herath said that extra special security arrangements were being made for this visit. Senior police sources said that the divisional chiefs and senior officers are personally supervising arrangements. A security blanket will be thrown over Colombo where the Gandhi-Jayewardene summit will take place. An operations room headed by senior superintendent set up at the police communications center will be its nerve center. Orders have also gone out to officers in charge of all police stations to keep close tabs on the movements of subversive and criminal elements.

Premadasa Wants Pact Changes

BK270800 Hong Kong AFP in English
0709 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 27 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Cabinet was in special session Monday to discuss a proposed peace agreement with India aimed at ending the island's bloody Tamil separatist conflict, informed sources said. Premier Ranasinghe Premadasa was expected to ask at the meeting, called by President Junius Jayewardene to spell out the details of the peace accord, that some terms of the agreement be renegotiated, the sources said.

Mr. Jayewardene had announced prior to Tamil militant groups expressing reservations about the accord that India Premier Rajiv Gandhi would fly here Wednesday to sign the agreement aimed at ending the ethnic conflict in which more than 6,000 people have died since mid-1983.

The sources said Mr. Premadasa would argue at the meeting that he was not adequately consulted before the agreement was worked out. The Sri Lankan premier was in Britain and Japan when the deal was struck with India.

Mr. Premadasa will also push for renegotiation of a section of the agreement which would merge Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces, the sources said. Under the agreement, the predominantly Tamil Northern and multi-racial Eastern Province would come under one provincial council with wide autonomous powers. After one year, residents in the east would be able to determine in a referendum whether they wished to continue to live under the same system or have their own council. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka's main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), and leading Buddhist monks have also publicly opposed the merger.

(In New Delhi, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and two other groups, which in the past have clashed with the LTTE, said they would take an independent stand from that of the LTTE, an EPRLF spokesman said.

("The LTTE's stand will not influence or prejudice ours," said spokesman L. Keethishwaran, claiming to speak for the three groups.) [passage omitted]

LTTE Rejects Proposed Accord

BK280315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, and other senior officials had discussions with Mr Amrithalingam and other leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] about the latest proposals of the Sri Lankan Government. The TULF has welcomed the proposals.

Discussions were also held with the representatives of other Tamil groups including the Eelam People's Revolutionary Front, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, and the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman termed these discussions as positive.

However, representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rejected the proposals. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, had talks with the Tiger representatives before he called on the prime minister yesterday evening. A government spokesman expressed deep disappointment at the rejection of the proposals by the Tamil Tigers, but expressed the hope that the group, like others, would support the on-going efforts to find an early political solution to the crisis.

The spokesman said the government looks forward to continuing the discussions with the Tamil Tigers to remove any misgivings that they may have. The spokesman said all other Tamil groups had expressed their confidence that India's negotiated efforts would protect the legitimate interests of the ethnic minority Tamils in the island.

India 'Disappointed' at Rejection

BK280408 Hong Kong AFP in English
0355 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) — India is deeply disappointed at the dominant Tamil separatist group's rejection of a peace accord designed to end Sri Lanka's Tamil-Sinhala ethnic conflict, a government spokesman said here. But the Indian Government would continue discussions with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Tuesday to try to remove "misgivings" the group harboured on the accord, the spokesman said here late Monday night.

The LTTE rejected the plan after an announcement here that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would travel to Colombo Wednesday to sign the accord pledging India to a guarantor's role on behalf of Tamil rebels. Under the agreement, Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces would become one single administrative unit with wide autonomous powers. Residents of the multi-racial Eastern Province would vote in a referendum after a year to determine whether they wished to continue to live under the same system or have their own administration.

India still hoped that the LTTE would come around to supporting the "ongoing efforts" by Colombo and New Delhi aimed at finding a political settlement to the four-year-old ethnic conflict, which has claimed an estimated 6,000 lives, the Indian spokesman said. He said the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and five hardline groups had expressed confidence that Indian efforts would protect the "legitimate interests" of the island's Tamil minority.

The LTTE, the largest of the guerrilla groups, had rejected the Indian-brokered peace plan saying the draft agreement ignored Tamil aspirations and would "remain only on paper."

Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said his group would not cooperate in efforts to implement the plan and vowed to continue its armed struggle for a Tamil homeland comprising Sri Lanka's north and east. Mr Prabhakaran, who is in the Indian capital for talks with Indian negotiators, voiced "disappointment and shock" over India's "unsatisfactory" efforts to forge the peace accord.

Under the accord, Tamil guerrillas would have to lay down arms by July 31. "When we are disarmed at the insistence of India, though we are still the sole protectors of our people, India will be held responsible for atrocities on the Tamils," Mr Prabhakaran told the *Press Trust of India* (PTI). Mr Prabhakaran said the LTTE would not agree to a ceasefire. He added that his men would not lay down arms until Colombo dismantled the estimated 200 Army camps established in the past year in Tamil areas.

The Tigers' supremo charged India with "tricking" the LTTE leadership into coming to New Delhi. India had brought the LTTE leadership here saying Mr Gandhi wanted to meet them to clear up some "misunderstandings", he said. Only on arrival here were they told that an "unsatisfactory" accord was to be signed, he added. "We were told to accept the plan in toto without any change," Mr Prabhakaran said and charged New Delhi with toeing Colombo's line and trying to thrust a "pre-conceived" peace plan on Sri Lankan Tamils.

He said Mr Gandhi's decision to sign the accord, despite Tamil reservations, amounted to a "stab in the back of the Tamils."

Tamil Leaders Want To Return to Jaffna

BK280452 Hong Kong AFP in English
0441 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) — Leaders of Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group have asked India to transport them back to their Jaffna stronghold after rejecting a peace accord to settle the island's ethnic conflict, a group spokesman said here Tuesday.

"We don't think there is any point in talking further," the spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told *Agence France-Presse*. "We have told Indian officials we want to go back and are waiting for a response."

"They (India) have told us they are going to sign the accord anyway," spokesman Yogi said. "So any more talks are going to be a waste of time. They are not going to convince us to accept the accord as it stands."

An Indian spokesman said late Monday night that government officials would hold further talks with the LTTE leaders Tuesday in an attempt to remove misgivings on the accord. Six LTTE leaders were flown here from Jaffna on Friday by the Indian Air Force.

Elections Planned for 15 Aug Under New System

BK251245 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1052 GMT 25 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (*Lanka Puwath*) — 9.1 million people scattered over 6000 polling booths will vote to elect representatives among four parties for 12 muncipal councils, 257 pradeshiya sabas [village councils] and 398 urban councils in the forthcoming local government elections to be held on 15th August 1987, Commissioner of Elections R.K.C. de Silva told *Lanka Puwath* today.

He said that the local government elections will be held for the first time in a national scale incorporating a "new perferential system" of voting. The new system, unlike the previous proportional representation (PR) system, calls for a list of candidates equal to the vacancies to be filled with an additional 1/3rd and to include in the list of names of candidates arranged in either order or priority basis.

The new system entails a party or a group to decide the priority of candidates according to the vacancies to be filled, in a given electorate. The main departure from the PR system would be the opportunity afforded to the elector to elect the candidate of his choice in an election.